



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

NYPL RESEARCH LIBRARIES



3 3433 07136827 2



A TOUR
THROUGH
THE ISLE OF MAN:

TO WHICH IS SUBJOINED

A Review of the Banks History.

BY DAVID ROBERTSON, ESQ.



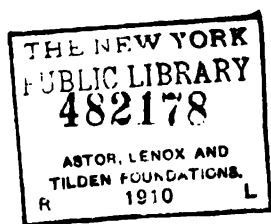
London:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,

BY E. HODSON, BELL-YARD, TEMPLE-BAR.

SOLD BY MR. PAYNE, MEWS-GATE; MESS. EGERTONS, WHITEHALL;
WHITES, FLEET-STREET; AND DEIGHTON, HOLBORN.

1794.



TO J. C. CURWEN, ESQ. M. P.

SIR,

THOUGH you have been pleased to honour the following pages with your approbation, I shall not, by offering any adulatory incense, abuse the indulgence you have given me on this occasion: Permit me, however, to express the high respect and esteem which the Independence and Philanthropy of your character have inspired.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your obedient servant,

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

THIS delightful Island having been hitherto little visited, either by the man of letters, or the lover of picturesque beauty: an attempt to describe its truly romantic scenery, to delineate the customs and manners of its inhabitants, and from various sources to deduce its history, may not prove unacceptable to the Public. I do not, however, flatter myself with obtaining the approbation of every Reader. Some of the Natives may be offended with the sketch I have given of their general Character: the political Parties, who have for some

PREFACE.

years agitated the Country, may affect to disregard a Work, that, instead of flattering the prejudices of either, exposes the ambitious and interested views of both: while the Idolaters of Despotism may resent my ardent attachment to principles, which, I hope, will soon be as universal, as they are sacred and immutable.

This Volume I do not presume to say is exempt from errors: my heart however acquits me of any intended misrepresentation. To point out with candour what inadvertencies may occur, will merit my gratitude; for the satisfaction afforded by the corrections of the candid Critic, can only

PREFACE.

be surpassed by the pleasure resulting from the approbation of the generous: but the animadversions of the • *illiberal*, as they cannot possibly injure my tranquillity of mind, I shall allow to pass silently into oblivion.

LONDON, October 14th, 1793.

CONTENTS OF THE TOUR.

CHAP. I.

**VIEW OF THE ISLAND FROM THE SEA—DOUGLAS-BAY—
THE SALMON FISHERY.**

CHAP. II.

**ARRIVAL AT DOUGLAS—RUINOUS STATE OF THE HAR-
BOUR—AN AWFUL CALAMITY—REFLECTIONS.**

CHAP. III.

**A DECEASED FRIEND—DESCRIPTION OF DOUGLAS—DUKE
OF ATHOL'S RESIDENCE—ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL.**

CHAP. IV.

**VIEW OF SOCIETY IN DOUGLAS—THE THEATRE—PREJU-
DICES OF THE NATIVES—PRODIGALITY OF THE ENGLISH
—AN AFFECTING ANECDOTE.**

CHAP. V.

**THE NUNNERY—FEMALE PIETY—KIRK-BRADDON—VENE-
RATION OF THE MANKS FOR THEIR DECEASED FRIENDS
—VIEW OF THE COUNTRY ROUND DOUGLAS—ADVANCES
OF AGRICULTURE—ABUNDANCE OF THE ISLAND.**

CHAP. VI.

**NEWTOWN—BALLA-SALLA—THE COTTON-WORKS—THE
DEEMSTER'S COURT—PROPENSITY OF THE MANKS TO
TRIFLING LITIGATIONS.**

CHAP. VII.

**RUSHEN-ABBAY—ITS ANCIENT DIGNITY—REFLECTIONS
ON MONASTICAL INSTITUTIONS — AN INTERESTING
STORY.**

CONTENTS.

CHAP. VIII.

DERBY-HAVEN—THE CALF OF MAN—ITS ROMANTIC SOLITUDE—AN ANCHORITE.

CHAP. IX.

CASTLE-TOWN—THE CASTLE—ITS FORMER DIGNITY AND IMPORTANCE—RESIDENCE OF THE GOVERNOR—GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAND, AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

CHAP. X.

KIRK-MALEW—FAIRY HILL—VARIOUS SUPERSTITIONS OF THE MANKS—REFLECTIONS.

CHAP. XI.

THE MINES—A CASCADE—TYNWALD-HILL—ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL—PEEL—ITS ANCIENT CASTLE—RUINS OF THE CATHEDRAL, ARMORY, AND ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH—INSTABILITY OF HUMAN GRANDEUR.

CHAP. XII.

KIRK-MICHAEL—NOBLE RELIC OF NORWEGIAN ANTIQUITY—A DRUIDICAL TEMPLE—HISTORY AND CHARACTER OF THE DRUIDS.

CHAP. XIII.

BISHOP'S COURT—ANTIQUITY OF THE BISHOPRICK—CHARACTERS OF BISHOPS WILSON, HILDESLEY, RICHMOND, MASON, AND CRIGGAN—DERIVATION OF THE TITLE OF SODOR—PATRONAGE OF THE BISHOPRICK, &c.

CHAP. XIV.

RAMSAY—KIRK-MAUGHOLD—LEGEND OF ST. MAUGHOLD CONFIRMED BY AN HISTORICAL PILLAR—SNAFFIELD—ITS SUBLIME AND UNPARALLELED PROSPECT—LAXEY—KIRK-CONCHAN—RETURN TO DOUGLAS.

CHAP. XV.

THE HERRING FISHERY—A SUPERSTITION HIGHLY INJURIOUS TO THE FISHERY—THE MANKS JUBILEE—REFLECTIONS.

CONTENTS.

CHAP. XVI.

SALE OF THE ISLAND—VIEW OF TRADE PREVIOUS, AND
SUBSEQUENT, TO THAT PERIOD — ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE CUSTOMS—PRESENT IMPOSTS—INSULAR REVENUE.

CHAP. XVII.

TRADE OF THE ISLAND CONTINUED—EXPORTS—SKETCH
OF THE HERRING TRADE—OTHER EXPORTS—BALANCE
OF TRADE — AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURES RE-
COMMENDED.

CHAP. XVIII.

GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE MANKS—THEIR INDO-
LENCE, MELANCHOLY AND SUPERSTITION—DISREGARD
OF LETTERS—POVERTY OF GENIUS, AND OF PUBLIC
SPIRIT AMONG THE MANKS—THEIR ATTENTION TO
PRIVATE CHARITY.

REVIEW OF THE MANKS HISTORY.

CHAP. I.

A REVIEW OF THE MANKS HISTORY, FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DRUIDS, TO THE NORWEGIAN CONQUEST.

CHAP. II.

FROM THE NORWEGIAN CONQUEST, TO THE DEATH OF GODRED, THE SON OF OLAVE.

CHAP. III.

FROM THE DEATH OF GODRED, THE SON OF OLAVE, TO THE SCOTTISH CONQUEST.

CHAP. IV.

FROM THE SCOTTISH CONQUEST, TO THE ACCESSION OF THE HOUSE OF STANLEY.

CHAP. V.

FROM THE ACCESSION OF THE HOUSE OF STANLEY, TO THE REVESTMENT OF THE ROYALTY OF THE ISLE IN THE BRITISH CROWN.

CHAP. VI.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE MANKS HISTORY AND CONSTITUTION—CONCLUSION.

A TOUR THROUGH THE ISLE OF MAN.

C H A P. I.

VIEW OF THE ISLAND FROM SEA—A SMUGGLER—
DOUGLAS-BAY—THE SALMON FISHERY.

DESIROUS of revisiting a country endeared to me by the remembrance of past pleasures, I devoted the Summer of 1791 to a Tour through this Island. The prospect of meeting once more with the few friends and companions which time had left me on the Island, seemed to invite me thither; and from tracing the progress of refinement in manners, the advances of agriculture, the new channels of trade and commerce, and the benign influence of the British Government, I promised myself no inconsiderable degree of mental pleasure.

4

With this flattering prospect I sailed from Whitehaven in one of his Majesty's Cutters ; and, as the day was delightfully serene, in a few hours observed the mountains of Mona breaking from the ambient clouds. On a nearer approach they afforded us a sublime and picturesque view : Mountain piled upon mountain, extending in a lofty range for many miles ; in the centre of which, Snaffield, with awful grandeur, lifted his brow to Heaven, and seemed proudly to claim the pre-eminence.

The bold and rugged coast next demanded our attention ; as even at a league's distance it seemed to threaten us with approaching ruin. In some places it sunk into deep and gloomy caverns ; and in others was overhung with frowning precipices : while the solitary screeches of the sea-mews united with the wildness of the scenery, to fill the mind with an awful melancholy.

In a little I discovered, under the shelter of Maughold's Head *, a small vessel lying at anchor. It proved a smuggling boat, laden with wine, rum, and tobacco; and had sailed from Laxey on the preceding night: but, unable to reach the English shore before morning, had retired under the high land, in expectation that the ensuing night would prove more favourable. But how delusive are the hopes of mortals! Being soon discovered by the cutter, the boat was without any opposition seized, and the crew transported aboard our vessel. The insulting exultations of the sailors, and the gloomy silence of the smugglers formed an affecting contrast. The owner of the property had in his air somewhat superior to the rest. His countenance strongly expressed shame and sullen anguish. As he retired to a corner of the vessel, wringing

* A huge promontory.

his hands, I heard him exclaim : “ Now am “ I ruined indeed ! How shall I return to my “ wife and family ? ” He had once seen better days. By his father he inherited a small estate in Cumberland ; but, one misfortune rapidly succeeding another, it was first deeply mortgaged, and then sold. To retrieve his misfortunes he engaged in this illicit trade ; and had imprudently risked, in this first enterprize, the fragments of his fortune : thereby involving a young and numerous family in unexpected ruin. I frequently endeavoured to mitigate his sorrows : they would not however admit of consolation. His distress I represented to the commander of the cutter ; but, though he pitied his calamity, no intercession could then avail.

This incident I have preserved, as it presents an awful warning to those, who, from infatuation or habit, prefer this hazardous and illicit manner of acquiring wealth, to

the slow, but more certain, gains of honest industry.

Before sunset the breeze which had hitherto proved favourable died away, and for some time we were becalmed in the Bay of Douglas; which, in the form of a crescent, extends for three miles from Clay-Head to Douglas-Promontory. The evening grew more and more serene: the setting sun threw a beautiful veil of light over the mountains; and the evening-sky gave a ruddy tinge to the scarcely-heaving ocean. A few straggling fisher-boats were moving homewards. The verdure of the fields, the wood-circled hamlets, the flocks scattered over the mountains, and the smoke curling from the town of Douglas, improved the landscape, and afforded a pleasing contrast to the gloomy scenes we had lately passed.

Douglas-Bay is spacious, and the neighbouring high lands render it an asylum from

the tempests of the north, west, and south; but to the storms of the east it is greatly exposed. Both points present a dangerous and rocky shore. A variety of fish is here caught in great abundance. The cod is a high luxury: and the salmon, tho' small, equals in delicacy and flavour the choicest in England; and during the months of July, August, and September, is very plentiful.

This Fishery has been claimed by the Duke of Athol as one of his manerial rights. Since the sale of the Island in 1765, it has been deemed the property of the Crown; and by the Lords of the Treasury is at present let at a sum greatly inadequate to its value. When the lease expires, whether Government will at an advanced sum renew it, or restore the Fishery to the Duke of Athol, will depend on the report of the five Commissioners, lately appointed by the Crown, to investigate the equity of his Grace's demands.

ASTOR LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATION
NEW YORK



*C H A P. II.***ARRIVAL AT DOUGLAS—RUINOUS STATE OF THE HARBOUR—AN AWFUL CALAMITY—REFLECTIONS.**

AFTER I had indulged myself for some time in viewing the beautiful and romantic scenery of Douglas-Bay, a gentle breeze sprung up, and we arrived at the town about nine in the evening.

The entrance of the harbour is narrow and dangerous, being fenced on each side by a range of precipices. In the centre of these a light-house, at once useful and ornamental, formerly stood. This, with a great part of the key, was destroyed by a severe storm in 1786; and in this ruinous state, highly injurious to the public, and fatal to many individuals, it has remained ever since. To enumerate the various shipwrecks this neglect has occasioned, would be unneces-

sary: but the awful Calamity, which happened in September 1787, is too interesting to be passed over in silence. I was then in Douglas, and never before witnessed such a scene of horror.

The preceding day was delightfully serene; the sky pure and unclouded; and the sun shone forth in all his strength and beauty. In the morning, about four hundred fisher-boats appeared in the bay and harbour, deeply laden with herrings, to the amount of 5000l. Gladness smiled in every eye, and the song of mirth gave new energy to labour. The earlier part of the day was passed in unlading the boats, and the remainder devoted to festivity.

The herring-ground was then off Clayhead and Laxey, about three leagues from Douglas. In the evening when the boats again sailed thither, there were no indications of a change in the weather; but at midnight a brisk equinoctial gale arose; and

the fishermen, impelled by their usual timidity, fled to the harbour of Douglas for refuge.

On the ruins of the Light-house is fixed a slender post, from which is hung a small lantern. This wretched substitute was thrown down by one of the first boats in its eagerness to gain the harbour. The consequences were dreadful. In a few minutes all was horror and confusion. The darkness of the night ; the raging of the sea ; the vessels dashing against the rocks ; the cries of the fishermen, perishing in the waves ; and the shrieks of the women ashore ; imparted such a sensation of horror, as none but a spectator can possibly conceive ! When the morning came, it presented an awful spectacle : the beach and rocks covered with wrecks ; and a group of dead bodies floating in the harbour. In some boats whole families perished. The shore was crowded with women : some

in all the frantic agony of grief, alternately weeping over the corpses of father, brother, and husband; and others, sinking in the embrace of those, whom, a moment before, they imagined were buried in the waves. The bustle of trade ceased; its eagerness yielded to the feelings of Nature; an awful gloom sat on every countenance; and every bosom either bled with its own anguish, or sympathized with the sufferings of others.

Dreadful as this calamity was, it did not awaken the parental care of Administration; and to this hour the harbour of Douglas remains in the same ruinous state: useless, in a great degree, to the public; fatal to individuals; and a monument of reproach to Government*.

* Since the above was written, (1791) I have, with much pleasure, observed the attention of Government to this subject. A new Key, on a plan at once beneficial and elegant, has lately been projected: which, I hope, will be executed in the ensuing Summer.

For several years the revenue of the Island has been greater than the expenditure : and a considerable balance is now in the British Treasury, which will be annually augmented. The inhabitants of the Isle of Man have therefore a just claim upon Government, that with their own revenue their principal harbour should be repaired ; and the safety of the public certainly demands, that what Nature designed for a general asylum from the tempests in the neighbouring seas, should not longer remain in ruins.

Were it rendered safe and commodious, his Majesty's cutters would frequently resort hither ; and trading vessels, instead of vainly combating the fury of the waves, would, till the storm abated, seek shelter here. Trade would soon be revived in Douglas, and prosperity diffused through the Island.

C H A P. III.

A DECEASED FRIEND—DESCRIPTION OF DOUGLAS—
DUKE OF ATHOL'S RESIDENCE—ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL.
EPISCOPAL ANECDOTE.

PURE and uninterrupted enjoyment is seldom the lot of mortals: frequently, as we raise the cup of pleasure to our lips, it is dashed by some unexpected misfortune. The happiness which I had promised myself from an interview with my friends in Douglas was sensibly diminished, by not observing, among the few who welcomed me ashore, one who was peculiarly endeared to me. At a little distance I saw his favourite servant approaching. His locks had grown grey in the service of my friend. As he advanced, a tear started into his eye; while his melancholy air sufficiently expressed, "that my friend was no more." "My

“ poor master,” cried Gerard, shaking his grey locks, “ is now at rest. You were absent, and his eyes were closed by strangers; yet as some consolation know, that in his last moments, he tenderly remembered your friendship. To-morrow I will show you where they buried him.” “ Yes, Gerard, I will visit his grave: I will bathe the turf that covers him with my tears; and sigh over the consecrated spot.”—
‘ Here sleeps in peace the friend of mankind!’

The reader, I flatter myself, will forgive this effusion to the memory of George Parker, Esquire *; when he is informed, that it is a tribute of respect not more due to Friendship than to Philanthropy: for his life was an ornament, and his death a real loss, to society.

* Brother of Admiral Sir Peter Parker, Bart.

Douglas, or according to the ancient orthography, Dufglass, is now the principal town in the Island. The seat of government is at Castle-town, about ten miles distant: but trade and commerce have rendered Douglas, in wealth and importance, greatly superior.

Near the southern point of the Bay the town rises in a triangular form: and in situation is both salubrious and pleasant; commanding a fine view of the neighbouring country, and a most extensive prospect of the sea, with the majestic mountains of Lancashire and Cumberland. The town, considering its extent, is now very populous; although, about a century ago, it was little more than a group of clay-built cottages. The establishment of the Excise in England, uniting with other circumstances, occasioned an influx of wealth into the Island. The bold adventurer often rapidly and unexpectedly, by illicit commerce, ac-

quiring affluence, his paternal hut was soon demolished; and on the favoured spot was erected a mansion, more flattering to his luxury and ambition: while his less fortunate neighbour contented himself with a residence, barely adequate to shelter himself and family from the severities of the weather.

This, I presume, will account for the present irregularity of the streets; and the surprize which a stranger feels, on viewing several of the best houses hemmed in by so many miserable cottages. Several of these have, however, been lately demolished: and a spirit of architectural elegance seems now rising in Douglas; to which the Manks have many inducements, particularly, from their easy access to some fine quarries of lime, stone, and marble.

A fine river, forming the harbour of Douglas, runs close by the town. The houses, which skirt the banks of the river,

have an air of superior elegance; and at high water would make, with the shipping and adjacent scenery, a pleasing landscape.

The residence of his Grace the Duke of Athol is a stately edifice. It was built, previous to the sale of the Island, by a merchant in Douglas, at a considerable expence; and was soon after that transaction sold to the Duke of Athol for 300*l*. a memorable instance of the consternation which universally prevailed in the Island at that period. But sometimes how short-sighted are mankind! The Revestment of the Island in the Crown of Great Britain, which the inhabitants then believed would ruin the country, soon proved the fountain of all the blessings which they now enjoy.

There is a free-school at Douglas; but what perhaps will appear astonishing to an

Englishman, there is not in the whole Island a single edifice devoted to the restoration of the sick, or the relief of the poor : yet, in few places, is private charity more universally liberal.

On some rocks near the mouth of the harbour, is an ancient fort, formerly intended for its defence, but now used as a temporary prison for criminals. In the centre of the town is a small chapel, dedicated to St. Matthew, which has little claim to the attention of a traveller : but on an eminence, a little west from Douglas, rises St. George's chapel ; a modern edifice, at once spacious and elegant. It was built by subscription, and the funds were lodged with the Right Reverend George Mason, Bishop of the Diocese ; a man, whose elevation to the episcopal dignity occasioned his future misfortunes.

Being raised to the mitre by the generosity of the Athol-family, he devoted him-

self to its interests ; and was easily seduced to engage, with some degree of violence, in promoting his Grace's well known attempt to re-establish in the Island some portion of that Feudal severity, which the wisdom of ages had abolished. The Bishop profaned his spiritual authority, by directing it against his political opponents. Bishop's Court, a mansion formerly consecrated by the venerable piety, meekness, and virtue of Bishop Wilson, now emulated the Vatican. The thunders of the church shook the Island : at length the civil power arose and checked episcopal presumption. By this salutary interference, the Bishop's influence being weakened, and his feelings injured, he soon after died, regretting his past temerity.

At his death there was a great deficiency of the funds which had been entrusted to his care. All was anarchy and discontent.

The wealthy creditor was injured ; and the industrious labourer almost ruined ! Thus, St. George's Chapel, in a great measure, owes its present splendour to the distresses of many individuals : a reflection equally afflicting to the pious and humane.

C H A P. IV.

VIEW OF SOCIETY IN DOUGLAS—PROPENSITY OF THE
INFERIOR CLASSES TO GAMBLING—THE THEATRE—
PREJUDICES OF THE NATIVES—PRODIGALITY OF THE
ENGLISH—AN AFFECTING STORY.

DOUGLAS, from its trade and commerce*, is the most important town in the Island; and its inhabitants, from their intercourse with strangers, the most polished in their manners. But Douglas is not only the chief seat of commerce: it is also the principal residence of the English. Officers on half-pay, and gentlemen of small fortunes resort hither; invited by the abundance of the necessaries, and the easy access to the luxuries, of life. Besides these, there are several decayed merchants who have sought

* As Douglas is the principal port of the Island, I intend to give an ample account of its present trade and commerce, after the topographical department of the work.

shelter here from the persecution of unrelenting creditors*: these live in retirement, and seldom mingle with their more independent countrymen.

To the society of the English Douglas is considerably indebted. They have given life and gaiety to the town; and have contributed to polish the manners of the natives. Convivial societies, assemblies, and card-parties, are now frequent among the higher circles of Douglas. Whist is their favourite game; and they seldom play high. Cards are however introduced on every occasion, and generally accompanied with a plenitude of excellent wines.

Among the inferior classes gaming is far more pernicious. Inebriation is here its

* The Isle of Man is universally accounted an asylum to those, who have contracted debts during their residence in Britain or Ireland; and presuming on this, some have fled hither and defrauded their creditors: but, at present, there is no law existing in this Island, which protects a debtor from the prosecution of his creditor, when the debt is sufficiently proved.

constant attendant. The taverns are nightly filled with tradesmen ; who, on the chance of a card, a die, or a billiard-ball, will hazard their last farthing. When carried to this excess, gaming is highly criminal. The mind, infatuated with play, becomes blind to every danger ; regardless of every duty ; and callous to every attachment. The gamester not only rushes on precipitately to his own ruin ; he frequently involves the innocent therein : and how greatly must it heighten his distress to reflect, that by this infatuation to play, he may have reduced a virtuous wife and late-flourishing family to misery ! Yet, in Douglas, there are some awful monuments of this wretchedness.

Although the liberal arts have few votaries here, a neat theatre has been erected by Captain Tenison, with the benevolent design of contributing to the relief of the poor. But, from the penury of dramatic genius

in this country, his charitable intentions have been hitherto frustrated : and experience has lately shown, that here the admirers of the Drama are too inconsiderable to support, even for a few weeks, a regular company.

The harmony of society in Douglas is sometimes marred by mutual prejudices. In many of the natives, notwithstanding a show of politeness and hospitality, there is a secret aversion to strangers : and in several of the English an unreasonable contempt of the Manks. The one is deemed too shrewd and selfish ; and the other too prodigal. The Manksman has been accused of seeking interest, with insatiable avidity, in all his pursuits ; and the Englishman, with much justice, has been upbraided with sacrificing every object to present enjoyment : while these prejudices are frequently heightened, by the thoughtless prodigality of the stranger involving him in debt to the native, and

thereby subjecting him to the incivilities of an importunate creditor.

Many of the English gentlemen, resident here, are more acquainted with convivial enjoyments, than with the pleasures of retirement. They are more Bon Vivants, than Penserosos. Accordingly, the festive entertainments of the English are numerous and splendid ; while each studies to emulate the other by the sumptuousness, or delicacy, of his table, and the variety and profusion of his wines. But this prodigality of the English, frequently exceeding their income, becomes highly culpable. It injures the natives ; it affects the credit of other strangers ; and often precipitates themselves into the deepest distress. Omitting many recent instances of this, I shall select one which happened some years ago, as it was attended with a circumstance peculiarly affecting.

Captain ——— was a gallant Veteran, who had suffered and bled for his country,

in the wilds of America. Having there distinguished himself by cool intrepidity, at the close of that unfortunate war, he returned with the troops to England ; where he was soon afterwards reduced to half-pay. With this pittance he retired to Douglas. His daughter, a young, beautiful, and accomplished woman, attended him. Her beauty was softened by a pensive melancholy, arising from the perfidy of a wretch, who, under the most sacred vows, had violated her honour. On their arrival they attracted general attention. He was respected for his valour, and she esteemed for her beauty. They were every where received with a splendid hospitality ; which the pride of the gallant veteran endeavoured to return and emulate. But this profuse generosity soon exhausted his finances ; and ere his next half-pay could relieve him, he was arrested and imprisoned. Every frown of fortune the veteran bore with the

dignity of virtue. His daughter's presence illuminated the horrors of a prison. With filial piety she mitigated his sorrows; and in her tenderness he forgot for a while the injuries of mankind. This, however, was a deceitful calm; for a few weeks revealed the daughter's shame, and brought the father's grey hairs with anguish to the grave. Being exquisitely alive to the honour of a soldier, his feelings could not brook the dishonour of his daughter. Under such a weight of misery he sunk; yet in his last moments he tenderly embraced, and poured forth blessings over his deluded child. Her anguish was inexpressible. She buried her father: but did not long survive him. Her frame was too delicate to support the anguish of her mind. She languished; she sunk; and at length sought in a better world that peace, which had been denied her in this.

C H A P. V.

THE NUNNERY—FEMALE PIETY—KIRK-BRADDAN—VENERATION OF THE MANKS FOR THEIR DECEASED FRIENDS—VIEW OF THE COUNTRY ROUND DOUGLAS—ADVANCES OF AGRICULTURE—ABUNDANCE OF THE ISLAND.

AT a little distance from Douglas is situated, in a most delightful solitude, the Nunnery. Close by the modern building is a venerable relique of the ancient priory; which, according to the Manks' tradition, was founded in the sixth century, by Saint Bridget, when she came to receive the veil of virginity from St. Maughold. From the pious celebrity of its foundress, the monastery was soon tenanted by female votaries; some of whom were compelled by parental ambition, while others were deluded by visionary joys, to frustrate the benignity of Nature, by sacrificing their youth and beauty at the shrine of Superstition. Yet,

amid the gloom of this once-hallowed spot, Devotion might sometimes heighten the raptures of the enthusiast; or Religion, with her heavenly balm, heal the wounds of the unfortunate.

The Prioress of Douglas was anciently a Baroness of the Isle. Her person was sacred; her authority dignified; her revenue extensive; and her privileges important. She held Courts in her own name; and from the Lord's Court she frequently demanded her vassals, and tried them by a jury of her own tenants. When such was her temporal authority, it may be presumed of her spiritual jurisdiction, that

“ Here perchance a Tyrant-Abbess reign'd,
“ Who rul'd the Cloister with an iron-rod *.”

But every vestige of her magnificence and dignity has long since vanished, except the

• Jerningham.

ruins of the convent where she once presided: and even these, when a few years have glided away, will also disappear. Every ornament of its former grandeur is now levelled with the ground; the mouldering walls are mantled with ivy; clustering wild-flowers crown their summit; and the whole ruin, being shaded with aged trees, is at once gloomy and romantic.

The modern building has an air of elegance superior to any other in the Island. The gardens are spacious and luxuriant; and the surrounding fields, being highly cultivated, and finely interspersed with woods and waters, present an exquisite landscape. In this charming retirement, once consecrated to piety, but now sacred to hospitality, Captain Taubman, the worthy proprietor, enjoys "*Otium cum dignitate*;" not more esteemed by strangers, for his politeness and generosity, than respected

by the natives, for his worth and benevolence.

About a mile from the nunnery, bosomed in a group of aged trees, appears the venerable Kirk-Braddan*. The surrounding scenery is solemn and romantic. The last time I visited this sacred solitude was on a fine summer evening. The ruddy sun was sinking behind the western hills; and his parting beams shone faintly on the church-yard. Beneath, the river, in many a maze, murmured along its root-inwoven banks; while, overhead, a few solitary rooks had perched their nests on the summit of the trees. The gales of evening sighed among the groves: and at intervals the tones of the death-bell issued from the church. A solemn calm breathed around:

* Braddan, in the Manks' language, signifies a Salmon; and this church probably derives its name from its vicinity to a river which abounds with this delicate fish.

and every object insensibly disposed me to
a pleasing, yet awful melancholy; reflecting,
as I trod above the venerable dead,

“ Time was, like me, they life possest,
“ And time will be when I shall rest.”

In this hallowed spot the inhabitants of
Douglas, and the rude forefathers of the
neighbouring hamlets, sleep in peace. Here,
the green turf lies lightly on the breasts
of some; and there, the long grass waves
luxuriant over others; while all around,

“ Some frail memorial still erected nigh,
“ With uncouth rhymes and shapeless sculpture deckt,
“ Implores the passing tribute of a sigh.”

The Manks are solicitous to pay every
veneration due to deceased friends. When
an inhabitant dies, he is attended to the
church-yard by a great concourse of friends
and neighbours. Before the corpse a funeral
hymn is sung, which closes on leaving the

town*; but is resumed on approaching the place of burial. The corpse is then interred, according to the rites of the church of England: the solemnity of which, at Kirk-Braddan, is considerably heightened by the quiet and gloom of the surrounding scenery.

Colonel Townley, in his voluminous Journal of Trifles, has been pleased to give a ludicrous account of Kirk-Braddan. With such puerilities the old gentleman might have amused himself and his friends. But why should he have increased them by mis-representations; and then, to gratify his spleen, obtruded them on the public?

Besides the Nunnery, there are several houses pleasantly situate in the neighbourhood of Douglas. Of these I shall only enumerate Athol-Lodge, the present resi-

* The Manks church-yards are generally in some romantic spot, retired from the towns and villages.

dence of Lord Henry Murray; Ballaughton, enlivened by the generous conviviality of Captain Southcote; and the Hague, the seat of the late Richard Betham, LL. D.; a gentleman, whose erudition was truly respectable; and to whose politeness and friendship I am highly indebted.

The land round Douglas, though perhaps not the richest, is certainly the best cultivated in the Island. Of late years several English farmers, sinking under the accumulated taxes of their own country, have retired to a land, as yet exempt from such oppression. Here they enjoy peace and abundance; while the success attending their agricultural labours seems at length to have roused the Manks from their lethargy. The marshy grounds are now drained; the waste lands enclosed, and nourished with lime, marle*, and sea-weed; cultivation begins

* In the north side of the Island marle is very plentiful. The sweepings of the red-herring-houses are esteemed a rich manure.

to throw a rich verdure over hill and vale; and the yellow harvests now wave luxuriant "o'er the smiling land." The value of landed property, of course, is now considerably increased; the country enriched by the exportation of produce; and the markets at home abundantly stored with a variety of provisions. Eggs, butter, and poultry are here very plentiful. Beef seldom exceeds 2d. a pound; mutton is equally cheap, and perhaps the most delicious in the world. Pork is still cheaper. The pigs fed at home are reasonably large; and have sometimes a fishy flavour: but there is a small species, called Purs, which run wild on the mountains, and are esteemed a most admirable delicacy. Hares, partridges, and moor-game are plentiful: and of fish there is great variety.

From this abundance of domestic comforts, and the plenitude of foreign luxuries, persons of small fortunes here enjoy life in

its full flow : for here, the oppression of game-laws, land-taxation, and excise-establishment are utterly unknown*.

In permitting one article of commerce the Manks are certainly culpable. Great quantities of excellent grain are annually exported ; and in return very indifferent flour is imported for domestic consumption. But this error will, I hope, in a few months be remedied ; for, since I left the Island, Captain Taubman has informed me, that on his estates grain-mills are now erecting, which will soon be sufficient for the supply of the Island. The same gentleman has lately endeavoured to promote among his countrymen a more

* The only taxes in the island are 10s. 6d. on each publican per annum ; 5s. 6d. on grey-hounds and pointers ; and 5d. on other dogs. These taxes, with a very moderate statute duty, are appropriated to the repairs of the public roads ; which are, in general, equal to any in England, without being fettered at every turning with odious imposts : In the whole Island there is not a single turnpike. The mercantile imposts I shall afterwards mention.

universal spirit for agriculture: and as a striking proof of its blessings, has cultivated a hill in the vicinity of Douglas, which, a few years since, was one of the most barren spots in the Island. His patriotic enterprise certainly merits imitation; for with every advance of agriculture, the comforts of life, and consequently the happiness of society, gradually increase.

C H A P. VI.

NEWTOWN—BALASALLA—THE COTTON-WORKS—THE
DEEMSTER'S-COURT—PROPENSITY OF THE MANKS TO
TRIFLING LITIGATIONS.

HAVING passed a few weeks at Douglas, in visiting those scenes which had once been the witnesses of my earlier pleasures, I was induced by two of my friends to accompany them in an ambulatory excursion round the Island.

We set out from Douglas early in the morning. The weather was delightfully serene. As we passed the Nunnery, the sun, in all his glory, broke from the horizon. Nature seemed to rejoice at his return. The ocean imbibed his rosy beams; and the mountains of Mona flamed with his radiance. The neighbouring vales were in luxuriant blossom, and exhaled the fra-

grance of the morning; while the surrounding groves poured forth the melting melodies of rapture and love.

The next object which engaged our attention was a bevy of country-lasses, going at that early hour to Douglas-market. They were seated on small horses with panniers; one side of which were filled with the produce of their little farms, and the other generally balanced with pebbles. The rose of health was glowing on their cheek; and gladness smiled in every eye. Their deportment was modest and unaffected; and, as they advanced, with an air of the sweetest simplicity they wished us good morning.—“ Happy souls!” I exclaimed, “ unacquainted are ye with that courtly “ polish, which refines away every virtue. “ Your homely salutation is genuine politeness; for it is the offspring of truth and “ benevolence!”

Soon after parting with this rustic group of beauty and innocence, we came to Newtown, the residence of Sir Wadsworth Busk, Attorney-General of the Island. The house is elegant : and Sir Wadsworth's fine taste endeavoured to embellish some of the neighbouring fields ; but the sterility of the soil, in a great measure, has frustrated every attempt. Yet, in this retirement Sir Wadsworth devotes himself to the pursuits of literature and the enjoyment of domestic virtues.

At a little distance from Newtown, on the top of a mountain, Sir Wadsworth erected a pillar inscribed to the Queen, in commemoration of his Majesty's recovery in 1789 ; which has little to recommend it to a traveller's attention, except the loyalty it expresses. To the fishermen on this side of the island, it however proves, from its elevation, an excellent sea-mark.

After leaving Newtown we proceeded to Balasalla, a neat village, pleasantly situated about two miles from Castletown. Here is a cotton-work, belonging to Messrs. De-la-prime; which is conducted on the same principles with those in Lancashire, and gives employment to many poor families in the neighbourhood. The raw cotton is imported from Liverpool, and, when spun, is sent to Manchester. The vicinity of the Island to these markets, united with other circumstances which I shall afterwards mention, renders this country highly advantageous for the establishments of such works. Is it not then astonishing, that this should be the only one in the Island; when private interest so conspicuously unites with public good for establishing them in this country?

But the village of Balasalla at present acquires a greater degree of importance

from the residence of the Deemster, or Chief Judge of the Island, than from the cotton-works. There were formerly two Deemsters; one for the northern, and the other for the southern division of the Island: but the present Deemster, Thomas Moore, Esquire, a man of considerable abilities and penetration, enjoys the honours and emoluments of both offices; a regular court being held at Balasalla for the south division of the Isle, and an occasional one at the north side for that department*.

This office was anciently of great dignity. The Deemsters were not only the Chief Judges of the Isle; they were also the Lord's Privy-Counsellors: and their influence over the people, in some degree, resembled the civil authority of the ancient

* Since this was written, at the requisition of the Duke of Athol a Deemster for the northern department has been again appointed.

Druids. They were esteemed the venerable oracles of justice, and in their bosoms resided the laws, which only on important occasions, were divulged to the people*.

In each of the four towns there is a High-Bailiff, or Inferior Judge, who gives judgment for small debts, not exceeding forty shillings of Manks currency. But all money-litigations to a greater amount, and prosecutions for defamation, personal injuries, &c. &c. are generally brought before the Deemster at Balasalla: who either determines them according to his own judgment; or should they be important, deems them to be decided by a jury at common-law, where he sits as one of the judges.

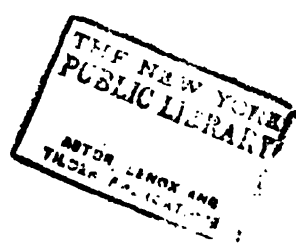
The Manks have a culpable propensity to trifling litigations. A rash word, a choleric action, or a wound which the hand of friendship might easily have healed, is by

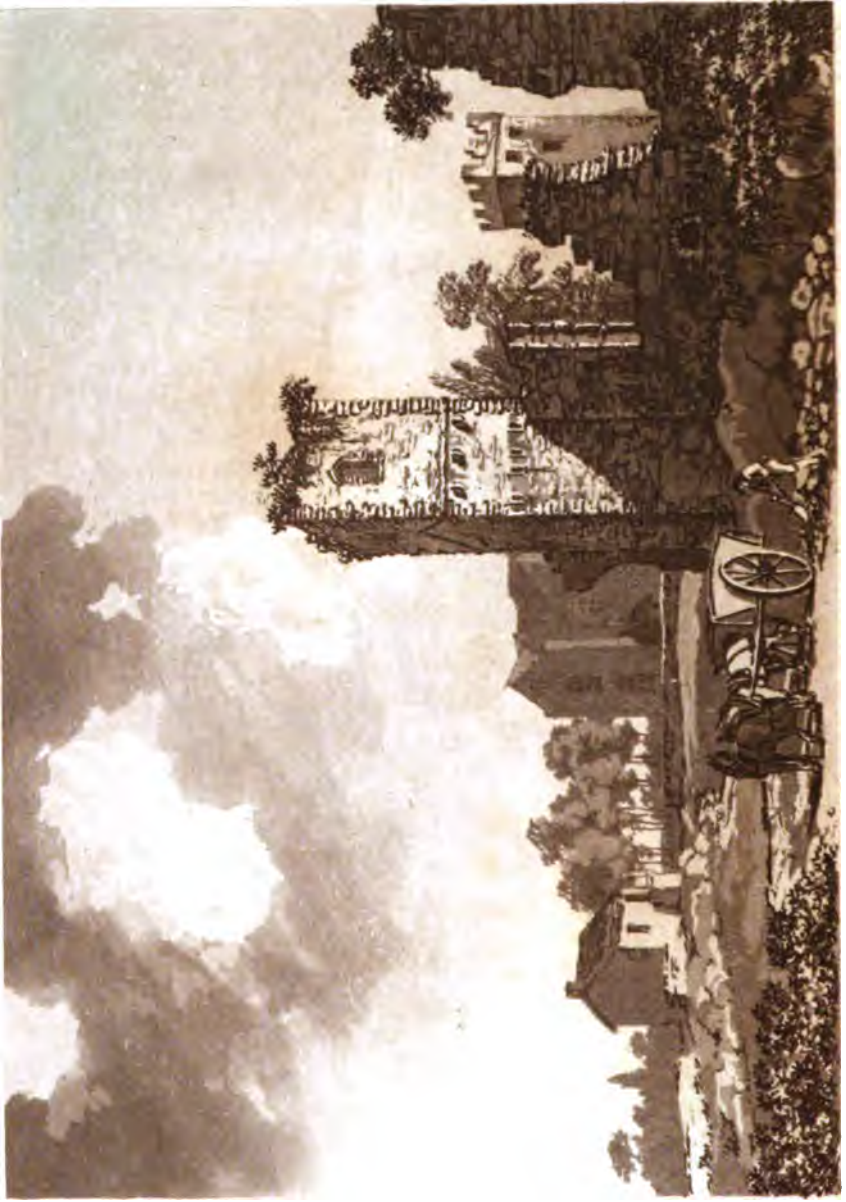
* This concealment of the laws is an undoubted relic of Druidism.

the malicious industry of those who batten on the follies and errors of mankind, swelled into an intolerable offence. Both parties prepare for the combat; and both are confident of success. This depends on the justice of his cause; and that on the abilities of his attorney, or the accommodating evidence of his witnesses. At length the eloquence of the Manks bar begins to flow. Impertinence, and insolence, are copiously poured forth by the one pleader; and as liberally returned by the other: and when the attornies have exhausted their potent eloquence, and a few witnesses have been permitted to perjure themselves, the business generally terminates in favour of the party whose witnesses have been least scrupulous.

Surely, such an encouragement of idleness, malevolence, and perjury, ought to be checked. Trifling disputes ought to be crushed in their infancy; and the litigi-

ous punished : while the professional promoters of this infamous traffick ought to be banished from society, as enemies to social concord and happiness. The asperity of this reflection may be applied to individuals, but ought not to be extended to the profession of the law ; for in every country I believe there are lawyers of integrity and benevolence, who, as well defending the innocent, as prosecuting the guilty, certainly merit the approbation of mankind. Even in this Island I could mention some gentlemen, who, sensible of the dangerous tendency of the trifling litigations so frequently agitated at Balasalla, confine their pleadings to the courts of common law and chancery.





C H A P. VII.

THE ABBEY—ITS ANCIENT DIGNITY—REFLECTIONS ON
MONASTICAL INSTITUTIONS—AN INTERESTING STORY.

At a little distance from Balasalla is pleasantly situated the venerable abbey of St. Mary of Rushen, founded in the year 1098, by one Mac Manis, a person whose wisdom and virtue raised him, by the universal consent of the people, to the diadem of the Isles; and from founding this monastery, it may be presumed, that his piety was not inferior to his other virtues. This religious establishment consisted of an Abbot and Twelve Monks; who at first lived by their manual labour, and denied themselves the indulgence of wearing shoes, furs, and linen; or of eating flesh, except on journeys. But this apostolical mode of living did not long continue. Their primitive humility, labour,

and self-denial, soon yielded to Monastick pride, luxury, and indolence. Their revenue was increased by a third of the tithes of the whole kingdom of Man. Magnificent buildings were added to the original edifice. Their rooms became more sumptuous; their habit more commodious; and their table far more luxurious. Their orchards, which from situation were finely sheltered, became more spacious and abundant; while their extensive lands, from cultivation, grew every day of greater value. Their temporal dignity was also increased. The Abbot became a Baron of the Island; was invested with power to hold temporal courts in his own name; and could exempt his own tenant, although a criminal, from the sentence of the Lord's Court; and try him by a jury of his own vassals.

However highly we may condemn that plenitude of power, with which the dignitaries of the church were formerly entrusted;

however justly we may accuse them of ambition, indolence, and sensuality : let us not obliterate their virtues, by a remembrance of their crimes ; but recollect, that from the barbarity of Goths and Vandals, Science, with her beauteous train, sought an asylum amid monastical gloom and superstition ; from whence she afterwards burst on an admiring world, in all her light and beauty. Nor were those institutions unfavourable to humanity, considering the ferocity of the ages to which we now allude. The stranger frequently blessed the hospitality, and the poor the bounty, of the Monks ; while the sick were visited, and “ the oil “ of gladness” poured into the wounds of the afflicted.

The Monks of Rushen-Abbey were of the Cistertian Order ; and were not inferior to their brethren in hospitality and beneficence : for, according to an ancient writer, “ they were accounted the Almoners of the

“ Poor.” The election of their Abbot was generally sanctioned by the approbation of the Abbot of Furness; to whom not only this Monastery, but perhaps even the Bishoprick of the Island was in some degree subject*.

Many of the Kings of the Isles being interred in this Abbey, it was not only liberally endowed but richly decorated. In the year 1316 it was however plundered by Richard le Mandeville; who, with a numerous train of Irish, landed at Rannesway on Ascension-day; defeated the Manks, and

* The following account of this Abbey is taken from Tanner's *Notitia Monastica*.

“ Russin or Ryshen, Cistercian Abbey. A religious foundation is said to have been begun here A. D. 1098, by Mac Manis, Governor of the Isle; but Olave, King of Man, giving some possessions here to the Abbey of Furnes, in Lancashire, Ivo or Evan, Abbot there, built a Cistercian Abbey here, A. D. 1134, to the honour of the blessed Virgin, and made it subordinate to Furnes. A. D. 1192, the Monks removed to Duffglas or Douglas; where they continued four years, and then returned to Russin, and flourished there till some time after the suppression of those houses in England.



..3324 BRIDGE



ravaged their country : however, after a month's residence, he reembarked with his people for Ireland.

Rushen-Abbey, with the adjoining lands, is now the property of the Deemster. Every vestige of its interior magnificence has disappeared ; but the ruins of this venerable monastery still retain an air of gloomy grandeur.

The Abbey-Bridge is situated in a romantic spot, and by the Manks is esteemed of great antiquity. Near the Monastery is shewn a tomb-stone of one of the Abbots, which is distinguished by the pastoral staff and a broad sword ; denoting he had as well temporal, as spiritual, authority. There is, however, no date or inscription now visible.

Before I leave this once-hallowed place, it may not be improper to present the reader with a short piece of monastic history ; which shall be given without any comment ; pre-

mising only, that there are still some vestiges of a subterraneous road, leading from the abbey to the castle, that seem to confirm what tradition has preserved.

In the thirteenth century, Ivar, a young and gallant knight, was enamoured of the beauteous Matilda. Her birth and fortune were inferior; but his generous mind disdained such distinctions. He loved, and was most ardently beloved. The sanction of the king was alone wanting to consummate their happiness. To obtain this, Ivar, in obedience to the custom of the Island, presented his bride to Reginald, a gay and amorous prince; who, struck with the beauty and innocence of Matilda, heightened by an air of modesty, immediately, for some pretended crimes, banished Ivar from his presence, and by violence detained the virgin. Grief and indignation alternately swelled her bosom, till from the excess of anguish she sunk

into a state of insensibility. On awakening, her virtue was insulted by the approaches of the tyrant. She was however deaf to his insinuations; and only smiled at his menaces. Irritated at her contempt, and flattering himself that severity would subdue her truth and chastity, he imprisoned her in the most solitary apartment of the castle; where, for some months, she passed the tedious night and day in tears; far more solicitous for the fate of Ivar, than affected by her own misfortunes.

In the mean time, Ivar, failing in an attempt to revenge his injuries, assumed the monastic habit, and retired into Rushen-Abbey. Here he dedicated his life to piety; but his heart was still devoted to Matilda. For her he sighed; for her he wept; and to indulge his sorrows without restraint, would frequently withdraw into the gloomiest solitudes. In one of those solitary rambles he discovered a grotto, which had been long

unfrequented. The gloom and silence of this retirement corresponding with the anguish of his mind, he sauntered onward, without reflecting where the subterraneous path might conduct him. His imagination was portraying the graces of Matilda, while his heart was bleeding for her sufferings. From this reverie of woe he was however soon awoken by the shriek of a female. Advancing eagerly, he heard in a voice nearly exhausted—"Mother of God! Save Matilda!" while through a chink in the barrier which now separated them, he saw the virgin, with dishevelled hair and throbbing bosom, about to be sacrificed to the lust and violence of Reginald. Rage and madness gave new energy to Ivar; who, forcing a passage through the barrier, rushed upon the tyrant; and, seizing his sword, which lay carelessly on the table, plunged it into its master's bosom.

The tyrant died : and the lovers through this subterraneous communication escaped to the sea-side ; where they fortunately met with a boat which conveyed them to Ireland : and in this kingdom the remainder of their years was devoted to the most exquisite of all human felicities ; the raptures of a generous love, heightened by mutual admiration and gratitude.

This is the substance of the tradition ; but according to some of the Manks records, Reginald was slain by Ivar, not in the castle of Rushen, but in a neighbouring meadow. This variation of the scene however does not materially affect the credit of the tradition ; as the Manks historians impute Reginald's death, not so much to Ivar's ambition, as to his revenge of private injuries.

*C H A P. VIII.***DERBY-HAVEN—THE CALF OF MAN—ITS ROMANTIC
SOLITUDE—AN ANCHORITE.**

WE passed the day at Balasalla, and next morning proceeded through some romantic scenery to Derby-Haven, a small village which only claims attention from its excellent harbour. In a little isle dedicated to St. Michael, a fort was erected by one of the Earls of Derby, with a view of defending the entrance of the haven. Though the tower is now falling to decay, part of the Derby arms may still be traced over the entrance, dated 1667. Near the tower is a ruined chapel, in which the remains of an altar piled up with rude stones, are still visible. But the fine view we had of Castletown and its romantic bay, afforded us far

more pleasure than our researches among those ruins.

At Derby-Haven we engaged a boat for the Calf; where, after a very pleasant sail, we arrived about noon. The Calf is separated from the main Island by a very narrow rocky channel, through which the tide rushes with astonishing violence. The Isle is about five miles in circumference; and is fenced round by gloomy caverns and stupendous precipices; which not only seem to threaten immediate dissolution to every approacher, but really prove fatal to many mariners. A few years since, a Russian vessel, of 700 tons burthen, was dashed to pieces against these rocks, and every one of the numerous crew perished. The caves and precipices of the Calf are tenanted by a great variety of sea-birds, whose shrill discordant tones increase the wildness of the scenery. Gulls, wild-pigeons, and puffins, are the most numerous. This last

bird is not to be seen in any part of the main Isle. The Calf (I presume from its solitariness) is its only residence. It breeds in the rocks; and though remarkably fat and of a fishy taste and flavour, is esteemed by many of the natives as a great delicacy.

We landed in a small creek; and, leaving the sailors beneath, with some difficulty and danger, gained an eminence, from which we had a spacious and delightful prospect of the ocean, with a variety of shipping for many leagues; terminated on the south by the high mountains of Wales, and on the west by Ireland: while around lay the broad summit of the Calf covered with rich verdure, and underneath the rich vallies of the neighbouring shore.

This Isle is the property of the Duke of Athol; and the land, with some little attention, would afford excellent pasturage. Several black cattle were grazing around; and formerly there was a large flock of sheep:

but these, having only an old shepherd and his wife to protect them, soon became a prey to the nightly depredators from the neighbouring Island.

In the close of the last century, one of the Earls of Derby was so charmed with the beauty and variety of this spot, that he sent over some quantities of red and fallow-deer; but these have long since disappeared. Hare, partridge, and heath-game, are however plentiful; and to the few sportsmen who visit this spot afford ample amusement. But at present what constitutes the chief importance of the Calf are the rabbits; the skins of which, with the feathers of the sea-birds, lately produced more than 200*l.* per annum. In our ramble round this solitary Isle we could discover no human vestige, except a shepherd's hut now falling to decay. Near the middle of the Calf there are three pointed pillars, which from their novelty claimed our attention: one half

from the base being of a black bastard marble, and the other of a shining spar, white as the new-fallen snow.

Solitude is frequently the nurse of woe. The wounded hart seeks the deepest shade; and the man of sorrow the most solitary retreat. According to tradition, this spot was once the haunt of a woe-worn hermit, who by his splendour and affluence had been distinguished in the court of Queen Elizabeth; but having, through an ill-founded jealousy, murdered a most beautiful woman, he sought shelter here from the vengeance of her friends. Squalid in his attire, uncouth in his person, and wounded in his mind, amid the caves and lonely recesses of the Calf, he lengthened out a miserable existence; atoning by the severest mortifications for his criminal temerity.

The day, being delightfully serene, was highly favourable to our excursion; but the shades of evening now warned us to

retire: when, after a long and lingering look on this very romantic solitude, we descended to our boat; and enjoying another charming sail, arrived at Castletown, highly pleased with the amusement of the day.

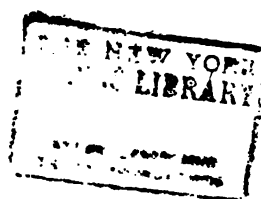
C H A P. IX.

CASTLETOWN—THE CASTLE—ITS ANCIENT DIGNITY
AND IMPORTANCE—MISFORTUNES OF THE COUNTESS
OF DERBY—GOVERNOR OF THE ISLAND—ADMINISTRA-
TION OF JUSTICE, &c.

CASTLETOWN, though dignified with the residence of the Governor of the Isle, is in wealth and mercantile importance greatly inferior to Douglas. It is however an airy and pleasant town; and though considerably smaller, surpasses the other in neatness; the houses being more uniformly elegant, and the streets more spacious and regular. The town is divided by a small creek, which opens into a rocky and dangerous bay. The difficulty of entering its harbour certainly in some degree injures its commerce. A considerable quantity of grain is however annually exported; and a variety of merchandize imported: but the ar-

ticles of rum, wine, sugar, tobacco, &c. according to the regulations of the Customs, being admissible only into the port of Douglas, are from thence conveyed to the other towns of the Island.

In the centre of the town, Castle-Rushen rears his gloomy and majestic brow, and for several miles overlooks the subject country. This solid and magnificent pile was raised in the year 960, by Guttred, a Prince of the Danish line, who lies obscurely buried in the edifice he had founded; leaving it as the most durable monument of his regal dignity. It is built on a rock; and before the introduction of artillery was deemed impregnable. The figure of the Castle is irregular; and by some travellers is said to resemble that of Elsinore. A stone glacis, supposed to have been built by Cardinal Wolsey, surrounds it. For several ages it has braved the injuries of time; and still retains, with its towers and battlements,





the gloomy and formidable grandeur of Gothic architecture.

Before the subjugation of Man by the English, the kings of the Island resided here in all the warlike pomp of those barbarous ages; supporting their splendour and dignity by oppressing, or destroying, mankind.

In the annals of modern history the Isle of Man is distinguished by Hume, as the last place in Europe, tributary to the English, which yielded to the arms of the Republic. After the decollation of James, the seventh Earl of Derby (for his enthusiastic loyalty to Charles the First) his lady, a French woman of princely birth and heroic spirit, sought with her children an asylum in Castle-Rushen; and presuming on the valour of Sir Thomas Armstrong *, the fidelity of Captain Christian †, and the attach-

* Governor of the Castle. † Commander of the Insular Forces.

f

ment of the Islanders, flattered herself with the hopes of defending it against the Republican army. However, when Colonels Birch and Duckenfield, with ten armed vessels invaded the Island, Christian, either possessing less zeal, or more prudence than his Lady, surrendered this Fortress to their first summons; and thereby saved the inhabitants of the Isle from blood-shed and misery: Yet, for this generosity he has been represented by the sycophants of Royalty, as the betrayer, while in truth he was the preserver, of his country.

The pride of the Countess of Derby was severely wounded by this event. She was, however, honoured with generosity and respect, during her captivity in Castle-Rushen. The Republican soldiers, remembering her gallant defence of Latham-house, admired her heroism: the officers emulated each other, in paying a just deference to the dignity of her mind, and the delicacy of her

sex: while the Majesty of the English Republic disdained to resent the arrogance of the seventh Earl of Derby, by any indignity to his captive widow.

On the restoration of Charles the Second she returned to England, with the sanguine hopes of recovering the whole of her Lord's forfeited estates, and of obtaining ample vengeance on her enemies. But this prodigal and voluptuous Monarch was too much engaged in prosecuting his own pleasures, to revenge the injuries, or reward the sufferings of his friends. Among many others, the Countess of Derby was neglected; which so affected her lofty spirit, that with the highest indignation she retired to Knowsley, where she soon after died, bewailing the ingratitude of kings.

Castle-Rushen still retains an air of royalty. Its Gothick apartments are occupied by the Governor, and the barracks

by some companies of soldiers, who are seldom permitted to reside much longer than a twelvemonth in the Island; but whose intercourse with the inhabitants of Castletown increases their trade, and undoubtedly contributes to render them more polished and affable than their neighbours of Ramsay and Peel.

The Governor of the Island is invested with ample powers*. He is the Representative of Majesty; and a council, consisting of the Bishop, Attorney-General, Clerk of the Rolls, and Deemster, is appointed to guide and sanction his decisions. He is Captain-General of the troops in the Island, and sole Judge in the Court of Chancery. In his name all arrests and judgments are issued; and without his permission no person can (without occasioning a heavy

* The Governor and Lieutenant-Governor have equal and independent powers; but the salary of the one is 400*l.* per annum, and of the other only 240*l.*

penalty * to the master of the vessel that carries him) depart from the Island. The Governor is also an important member of the Manks legislature; for his assent, with the advice of his council, constitutes the acts of the House of Keys into a law; which remains valid, till it is either confirmed, or annulled, by his Majesty's commands, communicated to the Governor by the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Castletown also derives importance from the courts of Chancery and Common Law being held here: but as these are now conducted on principles nearly similar to our English courts of justice, I shall only mention two peculiarities which still remain. Although any person may plead his own cause, yet none but natives are allowed to

* The master of a vessel carrying a debtor off the Island, without the Governors' *pass*, is subject to a penalty of 10l. besides being amenable to pay his debts: and on returning, the vessel may be seized, till satisfaction is given. The *pass* costs 9d. Manks currency.

practise at the Manks bar. Besides this birth-right, a Manksman enjoys another which is more universally important. No native, without intending to leave his country, can be imprisoned for Debt: his effects alone can be distrained; while a loathsome and hideous prison * is ever ready, for the most trifling debts, to receive the unfortunate stranger. However, on swearing that he has no maintenance, he is entitled to 3s. 6d. a week from the creditor: and this generosity of the law, perhaps more than the humanity of his creditor, generally prevents any tedious imprisonments for debt in this dungeon.

Before I conclude this subject it may not be improper to mention, that, for the most part, justice is impartially distributed to the native and alien: though sometimes the prejudices of a Manks judge, or a Manks jury, prove injurious to the stranger.

* A dungeon in Castle-Rushen.

Near the castle stands the House of Keys, a building certainly not corresponding with the dignity of the representatives of the country. But of this legislative body I shall give a more ample account in a subsequent chapter, on the constitution of the Island.

C H A P. X.

DEPARTURE FROM CASTLETOWN—MARBLE QUARRY—
KIRK-MALEW—GIANT'S QUOITING STONES—FAIRY-
HILL—VARIOUS SUPERSTITIONS OF THE MANKS—
REFLECTIONS THEREON.

AFTER our return from the Calf we amused ourselves for the next day at Castletown; and early on the following morning proceeded on our journey.

About a mile from Castletown there is a very fine quarry of black marble, which is much esteemed by the natives for chimney pieces, tombstones, &c. That lofty flight of steps, leading to the noblest edifice in the world, was taken from this quarry, and presented to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's by the venerable Bishop Wilson.

There are also near Castletown, within the sea-mark, some quarries of lime-stone, which are wrought at low-water; and, dur-

ing the recess of the fishery, employ some boats for its conveyance to the more distant parts of the Island.

On leaving the quarries, we visited the parochial church of Kirk-Malew; a gloomy and venerable building, situate, as the Manks churches generally are, in a romantic solitude: and the various monuments in the church-yard gave us another opportunity of admiring the pious veneration of the natives for their deceased friends.

From Kirk-Malew we proceeded to Kirk-Christ-Rushen, and in our way passed the Giant's Quoiting Stones; two very lofty square pillars, placed at a considerable distance from each other, concerning which the neighbouring cottagers have a very chimerical tradition, that might astonish, but could not amuse the reader. At a little distance is Fairy-Hill, a noble Tumulus, or Barrow, most probably raised by the Danes over the ashes of many of their country-

men, who were here slain in battle: but tradition says, it was intended to perpetuate the remembrance of the death of Reginald, King of Man, who on this spot was killed, in single combat, by Ivar. This romantic hill, in the opinion of the credulous natives, is still the scene of many a nocturnal revel:

“ What time, all in the Moon’s pale beam,
Dancing by mountain, wood, or stream,
To magic melody, the Fays
In green and gold and diamonds blaze.”

Collins, whose poetry is exquisitely picturesque, describes Mona,

“ That Isle where thousand elfin shapes are seen:”

and Dr. Langhorne, in his note on this passage observes, “ that the Isle of Man is now almost the only place where there is any probability of seeing a fairy.” The existence of these imaginary beings is still most devoutly believed in this Island: particu-

larly, by the inhabitants of the mountains: and as they have invested them with unlimited influence over the fishery, they frequently supplicate their favour, or deprecate their wrath, by various offerings. When I formerly resided in the Island, I one day took a ramble up among the mountains; and, being benighted, sought shelter in a lonely cottage. The sole tenant of this clay-built hut was an aged peasant of a pensive and melancholy aspect. He received me with much hospitality; trimmed his little fire of turf and gorse; and, "skilled in visionary lore, beguiled the lingering hours."

From him I learned, that, notwithstanding all the holy sprinklings of the priests in former days, the fairies still haunted many places in the Island: that there were playful and benignant spirits; and those who were sullen and vindictive. The former of these he had frequently seen on a fine

summer evening, sitting on the margin of the brooks and waterfalls, half-concealed among the bushes; or dancing on the tops of the neighbouring mountains. He described them as gay, beautiful, and by no means so diminutive as the English fairies: adding, that they were chiefly like women, but certainly more shy than any he was acquainted with; for they never permitted him more than a transient glance of their charms, and, on venturing to approach them, they immediately vanished. These sportive beings, my host observed, rejoiced in the happiness of mortals; but the sullen fairies delighted in procuring human misery. These lived apart from the others, and were neither beautiful in their persons, nor gorgeous in their array. They were generally enveloped in clouds, or in the mountain fogs; and haunted the hideous precipices and caverns on the sea-shore. My host added, that to them, Manksmen im-

puted all their sufferings: for he himself had often heard them, in a dark stormy night, yell, as in barbarous triumph, when the tempest was desolating the country, or dashing vessels to pieces on the neighbouring rocks.

Besides the fairy-superstition, many of the Manks, like the natives of the "Hebrid-Isles," believe in the second sight, and in warnings and fore-sight of their own death. Sometimes, amid the awful silence of midnight, many have heard themselves repeatedly summoned by name to depart: and several, in their lonely rambles, have met with a visionary funeral, which, unseen by any other person, followed the man destined to die, wherever he turned; till the apparition of the nearest relation then present seemed to touch him, when the whole instantaneously vanished; and the devoted wretch immediately felt a cold tremor over all his

frame, and his heart affected with the sickness of death.

The Manks have also warnings of the death of others; at least so far as the following story may be credited; which I transcribe from Sacheverell's letter to his friend the celebrated Joseph Addison, who it is well known, notwithstanding the philosophy of his illumined mind, paid some deference to the probability of popular superstitions.

“ As to the light being generally seen at
“ people's deaths, I have some assurances
“ so probable, that I know not how to dis-
“ believe them: particularly, an ancient
“ man, who has been long clerk of a parish,
“ has affirmed to me, that he almost con-
“ stantly sees them upon the death of any
“ of his own parish; and one Captain Lea-
“ thes, who was chief magistrate of Belfast,
“ assured me he was once shipwrecked on
“ this Island, and lost great part of his

“ crew; that when he came on shore the
“ natives told him, he had lost thirteen of
“ his men; for they saw so many lights
“ going toward the church; which was the
“ just number lost. Whether these fancies
“ proceed from ignorance, superstition, or
“ from any traditionary, or heretable ma-
“ gic; or whether nature has adapted the
“ organs of some persons for discerning of
“ spirits, I cannot possibly determine.”

So far says Mr. Sacheverell. We may however, without being guilty of presumption, impute these superstitions of the Manks to a native melancholy, cherished by indolence, and heightened by the wild, solitary, and romantic scenes to which they are accustomed from their infancy. A Manksman, amid his lonely mountains, reclines by some romantic stream; the murmurings of which lull him into a pleasing torpor. Half-slumbering, he sees a variety of imaginary beings, which he believes to

be real. Sometimes, they may resemble his traditional idea of fairies; and sometimes they may assume the appearance of his friends and neighbours, attending some nuptial or funeral solemnity. Presuming on these dreams, which the Manks enthusiast accounts supernatural visions, he predicts, with several general descriptions, some marriage or death in the neighbourhood: and when this prediction is lively in the minds of his friends, should any such ceremony occur, it immediately, in their opinion, constitutes the Manks visionary into a real prophet; but should no such prediction be then fulfilled, the credit of his future visions is in no respect diminished thereby.

I make no doubt but, amid hideous solitudes, a man of a melancholy or superstitious mind may insensibly form lively visions of some dreadful calamity he is about to suffer; and which may not only receive

strength, but even completion, from a sombrous imagination heightened by traditional terrors. With the world of spirits we are little acquainted. But I can never reconcile it, even to our ideas of the majesty, wisdom, and benevolence, of the Deity, that he would communicate to a few indolent recluses such revelations of "the unknown world," as could only flatter vanity, or accelerate human misery.

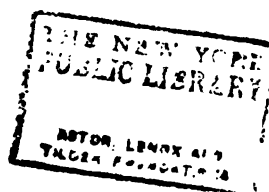
C H A P. XI.

THE MINES—A BEAUTIFUL CASCADE—TYNWALD-HILL—
ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL—PEEL—ITS ANCIENT CASTLE—
RUINS OF THE CATHEDRAL—INSTABILITY OF HUMAN
GRANDEUR.

FROM Fairy-Hill we proceeded through a mountainous part of the country, to the lead-mines at Foxdale; which are wrought, under the government of a company in London, by a few miners from Derbyshire. The ore being rich and abundant, the mines afford an ample recompence to the workmen; and would prove highly lucrative to the proprietors, were they conducted with more vigour and attention. Besides these, there is a strong presumption of copper-mines in this country; for, according to Sacheverell's letter to Addison, "there is a pool in the mountainous parts of Kirk-Christ-Rushen, of so vitriolic a quality,

“ that no ducks or geese can live near it ;
“ which probably proceeds from the parti-
“ cles of copper, that are discovered on all
“ sides of those mountains.” Sacheverell
adds, “ there is also a great probability of
“ coal ;” but, in the course of a century,
this probability has never been ascertained.
The inhabitants of the interior parts of the
Island are however plentifully supplied with
turf from their morasses, and those of the
sea-ports with coal from the exhaustless
mines of Cumberland.

At a little distance from the lead-mines is
a very romantic and beautiful cascade, which
leaps down the neighbouring mountains, till
it approaches a steep perpendicular rock ;
from whence, with much rapidity, it throws
itself into the vale below. The fall is from
a considerable height ; and its picturesque
beauty, and wild melody, receive an addi-
tional effect from the solitude of the sur-
rounding scenery.





TYNWALD HILL

About two miles nearer Peel is the Tynwald-Hill, a Danish barrow of a conic shape and beautiful structure; which, considering its ancient dignity and importance, we regarded with some degree of enthusiastic reverence.

The vestiges of two gates, and of a wall which once fenced it round, are now scarcely visible; but the rest of this important mount is entire. The approach to the summit is up a spacious flight of grassy steps, fronting the ancient chapel of St. John's. Below the summit, there are three circular seats raised for the different orders of the people. The lowest is about four feet in width, and eighty yards in circumference. In the circuit and width of the two higher, there is a proportionable diminution; and each seat is regularly advanced three feet above the other; while the summit, on which was anciently placed the chair

of state, does not exceed two yards in diameter.

This romantic spot is situated near the centre of the Island: and here, in 1417, Sir John Stanley, King and Lord of Man, convened the whole body of the people, to witness the first promulgation of the laws; which, till that æra, had been locked up in the breasts of their venerable Deemsters*. The Tynwald-Hill is, in some degree, still the scene of legislation; for all laws, respecting the internal polity of the Island, are never constitutionally binding, till, according to immemorial usage, they are promulgated at this place; from which custom, the Legislature, framing such acts, are denominated a Tynwald-Court; and the Laws of the Island, Acts of Tynwald†.

* In the historical department of the work, I have given an ample account of this memorable Convention.

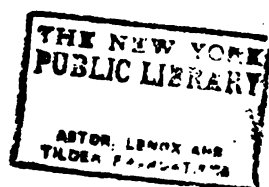
“† Formerly a Tynwald-Court was annually held on St. John’s day; and every person had a right to present any uncommon grievance, and to have his complaint heard in the face of the whole country.”

The artificial mount of Tynwald has received little injury from the lapse of ages ; but the ancient chapel of St. John's is now desolate and ruinous. The roof is greatly shattered, and the walls are now a sheltering place to the sheep in the neighbourhood.

About noon we passed the pleasant villa of the late Sir George Moore ; and soon after arrived at Peel, which now ranks as the third town of the Island ; though, from its impregnable castle, it was anciently deemed the most important. Previous to 1765, Peel had a considerable traffick with the Irish and Scotch smugglers ; but since then, its trade has almost disappeared. The town at present is inert and solitary, and the houses in general have a poor and miserable aspect ; yet, situated near the harbour, are some stately buildings, which may be considered as the only relics of its former wealth and commerce. Small vessels occasionally visit the harbour : its exports how-

ever are few, and its imports chiefly from Douglas. The inhabitants are for the most part indolent and poor; but being hardy, seem contented with their humble blessings. Peel-Bay is spacious, and abounds with a variety of fish; particularly with the red-cod, which is an exquisite delicacy. It is of a bright vermilion colour; and feeds among rocks, covered with weeds and mosses of a crimson tinge. From these, perhaps, this beautiful fish derives its peculiar colour: for, as the vermilion hues of the moss and plants fade, the bright beauty of the fish also decreases.

At the north boundary of Peel-Bay is a range of several very grotesque and romantic caverns; supposed by the superstitious natives, to be the subterraneous palaces of those sullen and malignant spirits which I formerly mentioned. The south extremity of the Bay is formed by Peel-Isle, an extensive and lofty rock encircled





by the sea ; the summit of which is crowned with the venerable and very picturesque ruins of the castle of Peel, and the cathedral of Mona, dedicated to St. Germain, the first Bishop of the Isle*. This romantic and important spot is still fenced round with a wall, having towers and battlements; and, before the modern improvements in the art of war, certainly repelled every invader.

Besides the castle and cathedral, there are scattered around, some other noble fragments of antiquity; particularly, the ruins of St. Patrick's church, the armoury, the Lord's mansion, and the Episcopal palace.

From these relics we may however conjecture, that before the erection of Castle-Rushen, Peel-Castle was the residence of the Princes and Peers of Mona : but alas! its ancient grandeur has long since perished. The once formidable strength of its battlements and towers is now yielding to the

* He lived in the Fifth Century.

injuries of Time. Its massy columns are levelled with the dust; and its ornaments lie scattered around, among noisome weeds; while the mouldering walls are, in many places, only supported by the clasping ivy. Yet such is the general fate of humanity. Time has defaced the grandeur of this Gothic edifice; and sooner, or later, the same Power will triumph over human genius, and destroy every monument of the pride of man. Virtue alone will survive the wreck of worlds: for, Virtue, though human, is immortal.

To this account of Peel-Isle I shall beg leave to subjoin Mr. Grose's more minute description, as he has anticipated some of those observations which occurred to me, on visiting the place. The following particulars are transcribed from the fourth volume of his *Antiquities of England*.

“ Peel-Castle stands on a small rocky
“ Island, about an hundred yards north of

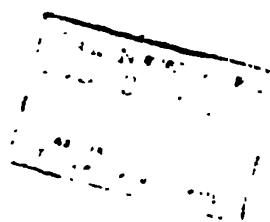
“ the town. The channel which divides it
“ from the main land, at high water is very
“ deep ; but when the tide is out, is scarcely
“ mid-leg deep, being only separated by
“ a little rivulet, which runs from Kirk
“ Jarmyn mountains. The entrance into
“ this Island is on the south side, where
“ a flight of stone steps, now nearly demo-
“ lished, though strongly cramped with
“ iron, come over the rocks to the water’s
“ edge ; and turning to the left, others lead
“ through a gateway in the side of a square
“ tower into the castle. Adjoining to this
“ tower is a strong vaulted guard-room.

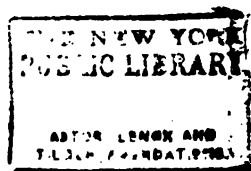
“ The walls enclose an irregular polygon,
“ whose area contains about two acres.
“ They are flanked with towers, and are
“ remarkably rough, being built with a
“ coarse grey stone, but coigned and faced
“ in many parts with a red gritt found in
“ the neighbourhood. It is highly pro-
“ bable this Island has been fortified in

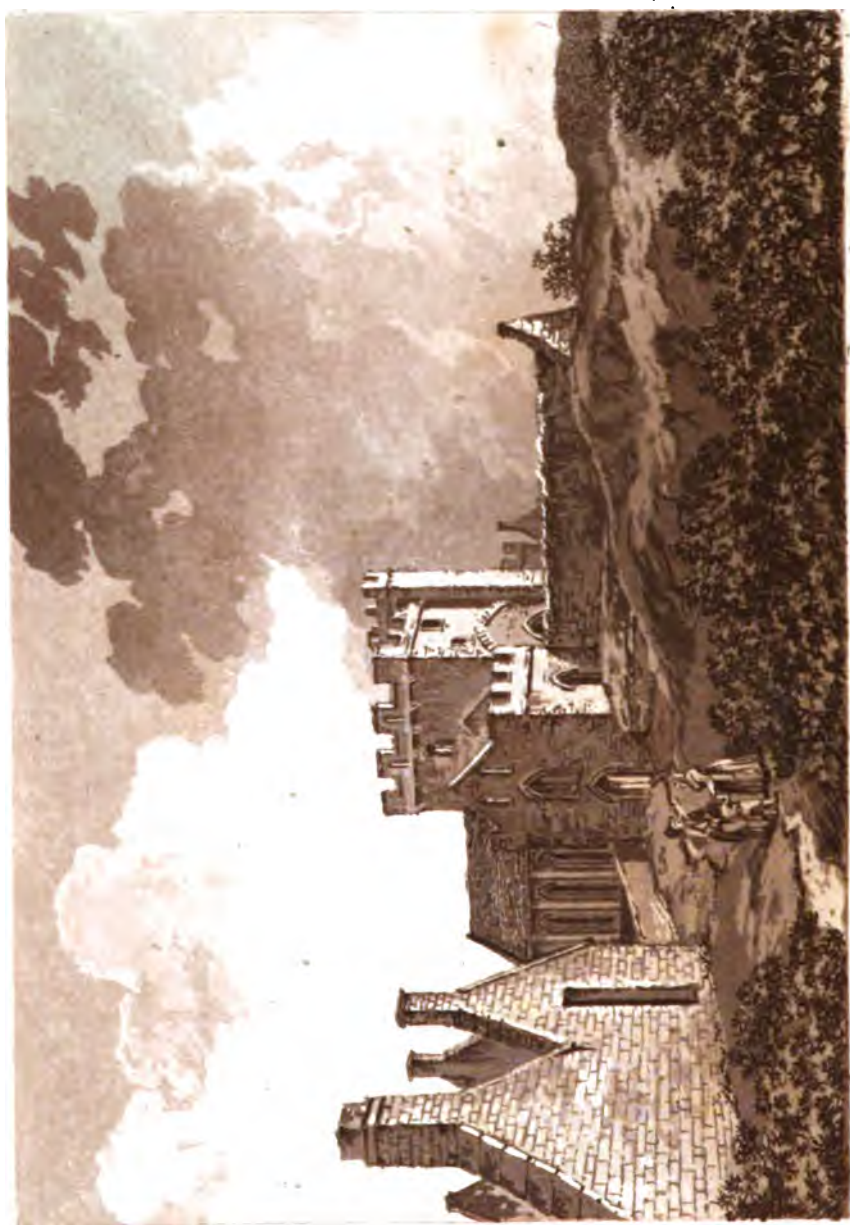
“ some manner ever since the churches
“ were built; but the present works are
“ said, by Bishop Wilson, to have been
“ constructed by Thomas Earl of Derby,
“ who first encompassed it with a wall,
“ probably about the year 1500.

“ Here are the remains of two churches;
“ one dedicated to St. Patrick, the æra of
“ its erection unknown; the other called
“ St. Germain's, or the cathedral, constructed about the year 1245. It is built,
“ in the form of a cross, with a coarse grey
“ stone; but the angles, window-cases, and
“ arches, are coigned and formed with a
“ stone found hereabouts, almost as red as
“ brick. This mixture of colours has a
“ pleasing effect, and gives a richness and
“ variety to the building. The cathedral
“ is now extremely ruinous, much of it
“ unroofed, and the remainder so much
“ out of repair, that it would not be over-
“ safe for a congregation to assemble in it.









“ The eastern part of it is, however, still
“ covered and shut up, in which there are
“ seats, and a pulpit. This was the epis-
“ copal cemetery ; and the inhabitants still
“ bury within and about its walls.

“ Beneath the easternmost part of it is
“ the ecclesiastical prison. The descent
“ into this vault is by eighteen steps ; and
“ the roof is vaulted by thirteen ribs, form-
“ ing pointed arches, and supported by as
“ many short semi-hexagonal pilasters, only
“ twenty-one inches above ground. The
“ bottom of this place is extremely rough ;
“ and in the north-west corner is a well,
“ or spring, which must have added greatly
“ to the natural dampness of the place ;
“ to which there is no other air or light,
“ but what is admitted through a small
“ window at the east end.

“ About the middle of the area, a little
“ to the northward of the churches of St.
“ Patrick and St. Germain's, is a square

“ pyramidical mount of earth, terminating
“ obtusely. Each of its sides faces one of
“ the cardinal points of the compass, and
“ measures about seventy yards. Time and
“ weather have rounded off its angles ; but
“ on a careful observation it will be found
“ to have been originally of the figure here
“ described. For what use this mount was
“ intended may not be easy to determine.
“ Perhaps from this eminence the commanding officer harangued his garrison,
“ and distributed his orders; or else it may
“ have been the burial place of some great
“ personage in very early times; tumuli
“ of this kind not being uncommon in the
“ Island.”

This account of Peel-Isle I shall conclude with the following historical passage from Waldron.

“ It was in this castle that Eleanor, wife
“ to Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, uncle
“ to King Henry the Sixth, and Lord Pro-

“ tector of England, was confined, after be-
“ ing banished through the malice of the
“ Duke of Suffolk, and cardinal of Win-
“ chester; who accused her of having been
“ guilty of associating herself with wizards
“ and witches, to know if her husband
“ would ever attain the crown, and other
“ treasonable practices. Sir John Stanley,
“ then Lord of Man, had the charge of her,
“ and having conducted her to the Island,
“ placed her in this castle; where she lived
“ in a manner befitting her dignity, nothing
“ but liberty being refused; she appeared
“ however so turbulent and impatient un-
“ der this confinement, that he was obliged
“ to keep a guard over her, not only be-
“ cause there were daily attempts made to
“ get her away, but also to prevent her
“ laying violent hands on her own life.
“ They tell you, that ever since her death,
“ to this hour, a person is heard to go up
“ the stone stairs of one of these little

“ houses on the walls, constantly every
“ night as soon as the clock has struck
“ twelve; but I never heard any one say
“ they had seen what it was, though the
“ general conjecture is, that it is no other
“ than the troubled spirit of this lady, who
“ died, as she had lived, dissatisfied, and
“ murmuring at her fate.”

C H A P. XII.

KIRK-MICHAEL—NOBLE RELIC OF NORWEGIAN ANTI-
QUITY—A DRUIDICAL TEMPLE—CHARACTER AND HIS-
TORY OF THE DRUIDS.

IN contemplating the venerable and majestic ruins of Peel-Castle, we passed the greater part of the day, and next morning proceeded on our ambulatory excursion through the Island. Returning to St. John's, and taking the road to Kirk-Michael, we entered a romantic and solitary dell, watered by a brawling stream, and environed with a range of steep and wild mountains. This narrow valley continued for some miles ; where the eye was sometimes relieved by the view of a lonely cottage, or of a few straggling sheep feeding on the mountains. But on gaining an ascent at the extremity of this dell, we had a delightful prospect

A

of the country, enriched with villages and farms, extending many miles before us.

About noon we reached Kirk-Michael, an extensive village pleasantly situated near the sea, about half-way from Peel to Ramsay. Sauntering through the village before dinner, we had soon an opportunity of admiring a noble relic of antiquity, which is elevated before the entrance of the churchyard. It is a lofty square pillar of blue stone, figured over with devices, curiously involved with each other, from the base to the summit; and is supposed to have been erected in honour of Thureelf, a Norwegian hero*. In this neighbourhood are

* The following observations on this subject are copied from Bishop Wilson's concise Account of the Isle of Man.

“ There is perhaps no country in which more Runic inscriptions
“ are to be met with, particularly on funeral monuments. They
“ are generally cut upon long flat rag-stones, and are to be read
“ from the bottom upwards. The inscriptions are generally upon
“ one edge of the stones; and on both sides are crosses, and
“ little embellishments of men on horseback, or in arms, stags,
“ dogs, birds, and other devices; probably, the achievements
“ of some notable person. In several of the barrows have been
“ found urns full of burnt bones, white and as fresh as when

several subterraneous caves, probably used by the Danes and Norwegians for the sepulture of their dead : but what chiefly merited our observation, were some very noble pillars of white shining spar, placed in a circular form, which undoubtedly are the vestiges of a Druidical temple. Besides this, there are several other remains of those ancient priests and legislators in this Island.

The Druids were the most venerable of human characters. As priests, they were deemed sacred : as legislators, politic ; and as philosophers, enlightened and humane : while the nation chearfully paid them the veneration due to the ministers of God, and the magistrates of the people.

“ interred. And in the last century were dug up several brass daggers and other military instruments ; with some nails of pure gold, having on the small end rivets of the same metal ; which, from their make appear to have been the nails of a royal target.” A silver crucifix and some ancient coins of gold, silver, and brass, were also dug up, in the beginning of the present century.

Their government was truly patriarchal. They were the sacred fathers of their country. Amid their umbrageous oaks they sacrificed at the altar; and from the throne of justice gave laws to the nation. To render their civil character more venerable, they concealed from the vulgar several of their rites and ceremonies; and from this mysterious policy, some writers have presumed to condemn their worship as barbarous and inhuman. But their doctrines were pure and sublime; combining the unity of God, the immortality of the soul, and a just distribution of future rewards and punishments. They were also scientific observers of nature, and teachers of moral philosophy. Their precepts were never committed to writing, but delivered in verse to their pupils, who, by the intense study of many years, imprinted them on the memory. Residing in woods and caves, they were distinguished by the austerity and sim-

plicity of their manners : and thus, by their knowledge, wisdom, and virtue, obtained a sovereign influence over the minds of the people. They decided all public and private controversies. The impious were awed at their frown; and the virtuous rejoiced in their smiles; while from their judgement there was no appeal. “ No laws
“ were instituted by the princes, or assemblies, without their advice and approbation; no person was punished with bonds
“ or death, without their passing sentence;
“ no plunder taken in war was used by the
“ captor, until the Druids determined what
“ part they should seclude for themselves.” Their power, as it sprung from virtue and genius, was not hereditary; but conferred on those, whose merit might sanction the choice.

Such were the priests and rulers of the ancient Britons; who, in the first century, fled, from the ferocious sword of Roman

conquest, to Anglesea, where they were soon followed by the Satellites of despotism. In this Isle, after nobly opposing these foes of liberty, they were defeated; their venerable King Caractacus carried in chains to Rome; and the whole race almost exterminated by the insatiate sword of the *polished* Romans.

The few who survived the general slaughter escaped to the Isle of Man, where they were generously received by their brethren; and, amid the wild solitudes of this country, at a distance from the

“ Cry of Havock and the Dogs of War”

found a happy asylum. Here, they planted new groves*; increased their temples; and

* In those fine meadows called the Curragh, which were formerly an extensive bog, roots of oak-trees have been discovered at eighteen or twenty feet from the surface, which were probably buried here by some violent concussion, subsequent to the æra of the Druids. Near Castletown some traces of an earthquake, and of a volcanic eruption have been observed. Tradition is however silent on these subjects.

for some ages governed the people by their mild laws and venerable institutions ; till about the close of the fourth century, when the light of Christianity broke on this Island : and then, the Druids, who had ever condemned the idolatry of the neighbouring nations, gradually embraced a system of religion, which, in purity and sublimity, resembled, yet infinitely surpassed, their own.

C H A P. XIII.

**BISHOP'S COURT—ANTIQUITY OF THE BISHOPRICK—
CHARACTERS OF BISHOPS WILSON, HILDESLEY, RICH-
MOND, MASON, AND CRIGGAN—DERIVATION OF THE
TITLE OF SODOR—PATRONAGE OF THE BISHOPRICK—
BISHOP'S REVENUE AND OFFICERS.**

ABOUT a mile from Kirk-Michael is the residence of the Bishop of Sodor and Man, which was formerly a venerable edifice ; but by the present Bishop the ancient palace was demolished, and on its ruins a modern building erected ; inferior in external magnificence, but more adapted to the refinement and luxury of modern times.

The Bishoprick of the Island was founded in 447 ; and was committed to Germanus, a holy and prudent man, “ ad regendum et “ erudiendum populum in fide Christi :*”—

* Jocelinus.

and, as a public testimony of the veneration due to his virtues, the cathedral of the Isle was dedicated to him*. His successors were numerous, and some of them were distinguished by their learning and piety: among whom the Manks, with some degree of pride and gratitude, may rank the name of Isaac Barrow; a Prelate of great beneficence, who in 1671 was translated to the See of St. Asaph. Some years afterwards, Thomas Wilson was consecrated Bishop of Sodor and Man. This venerable Prelate, after a life of exemplary piety and benevolence, died in the 58th year of his consecration, and lies buried in the churchyard of Kirk-Michael. Over his grave a monument has been erected by his son, the late Dean of St. Paul's, with a very modest account of his father; concluding with,

“ Let this Island speak the rest !”

* “ This Cathedral was built by Simon, Bishop of Sodor, who
“ died in 1245, and was here buried.”—Bishop Wilson.

And well it may; for to Bishop Wilson many of the poor natives are indebted for the most invaluable blessings.

Venerable in his aspect, meek in his deportment, his face illumined with benignity, and his heart glowing with piety, like his divine Master, "he went about doing good." With the pride and avarice of prelacy he was totally unacquainted. His palace was a temple of charity. Hospitality stood at his gate, and invited the stranger and beggar to a plenteous repast. The day he devoted to benevolence, and the night to piety. His revenue was dedicated to the poor and needy. And not contented with relieving the wants, or mitigating the woes of mankind, he was solicitous, by his precept and example, to conduct his little flock to the kingdom of Heaven. He died in the ninety-second year of his age, justly revered and lamented by the whole Island: while his grave was watered with the tears of those,

whom his bounty had supported ; his benignity had gladdened ; or his eloquent piety had “ turned unto righteousness.” Even to this day, many of the inhabitants of the Island never hear his name mentioned, but the tear of gratitude insensibly swells into their eye, and their faltering tongue blesses the memory of their pious and venerable benefactor.

Bishop Wilson was succeeded by Mark Hildesley, a Prelate who assiduously imitated the piety and benevolence of his predecessor. At the desire of the Duke of Athol, he was nominated by the whole body of English Bishops, as a person worthy of wearing the mitre which Bishop Wilson, by his virtues had so adorned. Besides a life of private beneficence, he established a charity-school at Kirk-Michael ; and under his auspices, the scriptures were translated into the Manks language.

He died in the 17th year of his consecration, and lies buried, with his wife, under a black marble monument, by the side of Bishop Wilson.

These two holy men seem to have been selected by Providence, and crowned with a length of years, that by their pious labours they might humanize and enlighten, a barbarous people.

The next Bishop of Sodor and Man was Richard Richmond, an eloquent preacher, yet a haughty Prelate. He died at London, and was succeeded by George Mason, whose temerity has already been noticed. It may not however be improper to observe, that into this error he was seduced by the artifice of others, operating on his gratitude; and that his private character was virtuous and amiable. He died in 1784; and was succeeded by Claudius Criggan, the present Bishop; a man of deep penetration, polished manners, and domestic virtues. Of his pul-

pit-eloquence there are several admirers; yet some have imagined his gesture too oratorical, and his language too florid, for the simplicity and dignity of a Prelate.

The See of the Island is stiled Sodor and Man; and this title of Sodor has perplexed many. Camden derives it from “a small
“ Island near Castletown, in which Pope
“ Gregory the Fourth erected an Episcopal
“ See :” but no such Island is now visible. Buchanan, speaking of the Isle of Man, says;
“ Superior ætas oppidum in ea Sodoram
“ appellabat, in qua Insularum Episcopus
“ sedem habebat* :” and Archbishop Spots-
“ wood writes, that in the Isle of Man a
“ stately church was erected to the honour
“ of our Saviour, called Sodorense Fanum ;
“ that is, the Temple of our Saviour : and
“ hence it is that the Bishops are stiled Sodo-
“ renses Episcopi† :” while others, with a

* Lib. i.

† Book First.

greater degree of probability, have derived the title of Sodor from a village of that name, in the Isle of I-Columb-Kill, where the Bishop of the Western Isles had anciently his residence; but after the Norwegian conquest of the Isle of Man and the Western Isles of Scotland, the Bishopricks were united with the title of Sodor and Man; which union continued till the English conquered this Island, and then, the Bishop of Sodor and Man still retained his title, while the Scotch Prelate assumed that of Bishop of the Isles †.

By Henry the Fourth, the patronage of this Bishoprick, with the royalty of the Island, was granted to Sir John Stanley and his successors: and to this day, the Dukes of Athol, as his descendants, have the honour of nominating the Bishop of Sodor and Man: who, on receiving his Majesty's appro-

† After the English Conquest, the name of Sodor was given to Peel-Isle, (called by the Norwegians Holm) in which are the remains of the Cathedral and Episcopal Palace.

bation, is consecrated by the Archbishop of York, and installed in Peel cathedral.

The Bishop was anciently the first Baron in the realm, and at present claims (I presume chiefly through courtesy) the title and dignity of a Peer*: but as the Bishoprick was not one of those spiritual Baronies constituted by William the Conqueror, nor the Bishop elected by the King's Congé d' elire, he has no seat in the British parliament.

His power was formerly ample, and sometimes intolerant; but since the triumph over clerical oppression in 1643, it has been limited by moderation and justice. His revenue however increases; for within these few years it has exceeded 1200l. per annum: a liberal sum in this Island, blessed with such abundance not only of the comforts, but also of the luxuries of life.

* "The arms of the Bishoprick are upon three ascents, the Virgin Mary standing with her arms extended between two pillars: on the dexter whereof a church, in base the ancient arms of Man."—Sacheverell.

Under the Bishop are an Arch-Deacon, two Vicars-General, and an Episcopal Register, who, with their Prelate, compose the Consistory-Court, and have under their jurisdiction seventeen parishes. Of the parochial Clergy I shall give some account in a subsequent chapter, on the manners and character of the Manks; and at present proceed to finish my journey through the Island.

C H A P. XIV.

RAMSAY—KIRK-MAUGHOLD—LEGEND OF SAINT MAUGHOLD, CONFIRMED BY AN HISTORICAL PILLAR—SNAFFIELD—ITS SUBLIME AND UNPARALLELED PROSPECT—LAXEY—KIRK-CONCHAN—RETURN TO DOUGLAS.

ON leaving Bishop's-Court we had a delightful walk in the evening, through a fine country to Ramsay, where we arrived to supper. What I observed of Peel in a former chapter may with little variation be extended to this town. Both places before the sale of the Island flourished by the gains of illicit commerce; and since then, the inhabitants of both seem to have been affected with a supine indifference towards opening new channels of trade and commerce. In one instance Ramsay has the advantage of Peel. The neighbouring country, being highly cultivated, produces a

considerable quantity of grain; part of which is annually exported from the little harbour of Ramsay: but ~~this~~ may be considered, rather as the traffick ~~of the~~ farmers in the neighbourhood, than of the merchants in the town.

At Ramsay we met with little to engage our attention, and therefore left it early on the next morning. The sky was clear and serene; and the sun had just broke from the horizon, when we gained the summit of a steep hill in our way to Kirk-Maughold. Beneath us lay the spacious bay of Ramsay, glittering in his beams; while every object around us seemed to imbibe life and energy from his refulgence.

In observing the various beauties of the morning, we passed the tedious and solitary road, leading from Ramsay to Kirk-Maughold; a small village which derives its name from the following Legend.

About the close of the fifth century Saint Maughold, who had formerly been a Captain of Irish Banditti, was cast upon this Island, in a little leathern boat, his hands, and his feet, loaden with fetters. Such an object naturally awoke the attention of the Bishop of the Isle, who received him with admiration and pity; particularly, when the Saint informed him, that this severity and danger he voluntarily suffered as a penance for his former wickedness. To this mountainous solitude, still distinguished by his name, he retired; when his penitence, austerity, and piety, obtained him such veneration, that, after the death of the Bishop, he succeeded him, by the unanimous consent of the Manks nation. In 498 his pious celebrity was not confined to the Island. It soon reached his native country: and St. Bridget, one of the tutelary saints of Ireland, and foundress of Douglas nunnery, visited

him in his mountainous retirement; and there received from him the veil of virginity.

So far says the Legend; and in confirmation of part of this history, there is still visible a beautiful quadrangular pillar near the church-gate of Kirk-Maughold.

On one side, under the capital, is sculptured a venerable figure of St. Maughold, conferring the veil on Saint Bridget, whom the sculptor has represented as a majestic, yet beautiful virgin. The opposite side has a representation of our Saviour expiring on the cross; and under it the arms of the Island. On the third side is a figure of St. Bridget in a supplicating posture: her eye seems fixed on Heaven, and her countenance indicates humility mingled with devotional rapture. The fourth side is totally defaced; but most probably it represented St. Maughold's arrival on the Island, or some other part of his history.

Besides this beautiful relic of antiquity, there is also a fine Danish cross, sculptured on a large stone, reclining upon the ground just before the church-door, which certainly merits the regard of the antiquary.

KIRK-MAUGHOLD, notwithstanding its former celebrity, is now the most poor and lonely village in the Island. The church stands on a very lofty promontory, in the centre of a church-yard, containing not less than five acres. It is enclosed by a strong mound of earth, faced on the outward side with stone; and a great variety of ancient and modern grave-stones are scattered over this spacious enclosure. Perhaps, from pious veneration to the memory of St. Maughold, the natives, for several ages, used this consecrated spot, as the chief place of interment in the Island.

On leaving Kirk-Maughold we proceeded, through a very sterile part of the country, toward Douglas: and as the horizon con-

tinued pure and unclouded, we determined to enjoy the unparalleled prospect, which Snaffield affords in such delightful weather.

After climbing the lofty surrounding mountains, which only seemed to form a noble base to this stupendous pyramid of Nature, we gained, with much difficulty and fatigue, its towering summit ; from whence we had a most sublime and enchanting prospect. Beneath us lay expanded the lesser mountains; and all around the romantic hills and vales of Mona, beautifully interspersed with their woods, waters, villages, and towns: the surrounding ocean, refulgent with the meridian sun, and covered with many a white sail, heightened the beauty and sublimity of the landscape ; while to crown the whole, this charming prospect was terminated only by the majestic mountains of other kingdoms*.

* Snaffield has been termed the centre of the British dominions in Europe. Situate in the 54th degree of north latitude, and 4th degree of western longitude, it commands an extensive view of the mountains of Galloway, in Scotland ; of Cumberland and Lan-

Such a glorious view of the majesty of Nature not only charms the eye : it also purifies, and ennobles the soul. The mind is filled with a divine enthusiasm. Lost in admiration, we disregard human splendour; and with pity and contempt look down on the vanity and ambition of man. Our souls are weaned from earth, and already aspire to their native Heaven.

After enjoying for some hours the highest of human pleasures, we left, with a considerable degree of reluctance, this enchanting scene; and by a rapid descent soon reached the village of Laxey.

This group of cottages lies in the bosom of a deep glen; and from its retired creek, is resorted to by the few smugglers who now visit the Island. On the east it opens into a fine bay; and on the south, west, and north, is surrounded by steep and lonely

cashire, in England; of Caernarvonshire, in Wales; and of Arklow, in Ireland.

mountains, which, with the deep vales between, afford some romantic scenery. Such picturesque solitudes are highly gratifying to a pensive imagination. Here, the charming Muse of Beattie might "feast on raptures
'ever new *:" and here the wounded heart of Laura Maria might indulge in all the luxury of woe. Having mentioned this Lady, no less distinguished by her genius and sensibility, than exquisite beauty, I am induced, by the favourable reception with which she honoured them, to republish a few verses addressed to her from this Island, in 1791.

* See the Minstrel; a Poem, in which the finest poetical imagery is united with sublime and affecting sentiment.

SONNET,

INSCRIBED TO MRS. ROBINSON*.

THO' on thy cheek the living rofes glow
Lovelier, when bath'd in Sorrow's lucid tear;
Tho' more enchanting heaves thy "breast of snow,"
Pouring the sigh to pensive Anguish dear:

Tho' sweeter flows thy *soul-dissolving* lay,
Whene'er thy lute throbs to that deep'ning sigh;
As to the plaintive gale of sinking day,
Vibrates the lyre of airy melody †:

Yet, Ah! were mine the anguish-healing art,
No more should sigh that beauteous "breast of
" snow,"
Soft throbbing to the touch of Sorrow's dart;
But, tho' no costly balm I can bestow,
Accept the incense of a pensive heart,
Charm'd by thy magic melody of Woe.

* Authoress of those *beautiful* Poems originally published under the signature of Laura Maria.

† The Harp of Æolus.

Amid the wild and picturesque scenes, in the vicinity of Laxey, we passed the greater part of the day; and in the evening proceeded to Kirk-Conchan, a pleasant and airy village, where the aliens who die in Douglas are usually interred. We visited the church-yard, which contains some marble monuments of a recent date; and about sun-set arrived at Douglas, highly delighted with our excursion through the Island.

C H A P. XV.

THE HERRING FISHERY—THE MANKS FLEET—A SUPERSTITION HIGHLY INJURIOUS TO THE FISHERY—REFLECTIONS THEREON—THE MANKS JUBILEE.

Soon after our return to Douglas, I took an evening walk to the Promontory south of the town. The weather was serene and delightful: the neighbouring fields were in full blossom: the windows of St. George's chapel flamed with the setting sun; and the ocean was tinged with his ruddy light. In the bay, vessels from many a port, with streamers waving in the wind, were waiting the completion of their cargoes; and at a distance, scattered along the horizon for many a league, were seen the white sails of four hundred fisher-boats; while the town beneath was a crowded scene of business, enlivened with mirth and festivity.

The herrings are supposed to migrate annually from the north of Europe in one immense body; but on arriving at the northern Isles of Scotland, are broken into various huge shoals, which, after visiting several of the kingdoms of Europe, regularly return to the more northern regions. About the middle of summer a few stragglers appear off this Island: but the fishery seldom commences till the middle of July; and for a month or six weeks continues off Peele, Port-Iron, and Castletown. The herrings, though then in their prime, are by no means so abundant as afterwards.

About the end of August they collect from every part round the Island, towards the north point of Douglas-Bay; and here, with increasing success the fishery continues till the middle of September; when the equinoctial gales usually intimidate the fishermen, and dissipate the herrings.

The boats seldom exceed eight tons, are built with much dexterity, sail swiftly, and are easily commanded. When new they cost, including the nets, upwards of seventy or eighty guineas; but they seldom are the sole property of the fishermen. The produce of every night is divided into nine shares. Two belong to the owners of the boat; one to the proprietors of the nets; and the residue to the six fishermen. Two of these are generally seamen; and the rest, at the beginning of the fishery, come from the interior parts of the country: to which, on its close, they return supremely contented, if they have procured herrings, and the women, in their absence, cultivated potatoes, barely adequate to the maintenance of the family till next fishery. Few of the fishermen are acquainted with the anxiety attending the possession of riches. The greater part of their gains is consumed during the fishery in feasting or ebriety;

and the remainder is usually consigned to quiet some importunate creditor.

Upwards of four hundred boats * compose the Manks fleet. An Admiral and Vice-Admiral are annually elected : to the former of whom Government allows 5*l.* and to the other 3*l.* for the season. Their boats are distinguished by a small flag at the top-mast, and their province is to conduct the fleet to the herring-ground †. The boats sail with the evening, and return with the morning tide. On leaving the harbour, each fisherman uncovers his head, and appears for a few moments engaged in devotion: but this I presume, is more a relic of customary superstition, than an expression of real piety. Under the cloud of night they shoot their nets, which are buoyed up

* In this number are not included the smacks, brigs, &c. belonging to the Island.

† During the fishery there is a penalty of 5*l.* for every gull which is killed; these birds being supposed constantly to attend the herrings.

by inflated bags of dog-skin, dried in the sun and smeared over with tar. The herrings are caught by the gills; and in such abundance, that part of the nets must be frequently cut away. Many of the boats return laden with fifty, and some with seventy meazes*. This, while it continues, occasions a very rapid influx of money into the country; a successful night's fishing being frequently estimated at 3000l. and sometimes amounting to 5000l.

Among the herrings are caught great quantities of dog-fish, called by the Manks gabboch, which prey upon the herrings, and from their strength and voracity prove very destructive to the nets. They furnish the natives with oil, and when dried resemble ling; but are seldom used except by the poorest of the inhabitants.

I have already mentioned some of the superstitions of this country; but these were

* A meaze of herrings is five hundred.

in general innocent fancies. An error of that nature however prevails during the fishery, which proves highly injurious to the interests of the Island. Superstition, that foe to commerce, operating on the native indolence of the Manks, influences them to sacrifice at her shrine every Saturday and Sunday evening, during the herring season ; the fishermen being of opinion, that the sale of the fish caught on the one evening, and the sailing of the boats on the other, would equally profane the Sabbath.

Did this regard to the Sabbath proceed from a just veneration of the awful injunction of Him, who is so profusely conferring on them the blessings of the sea, it would be pious and commendable : but it is more the offspring of fear, than of gratitude to Heaven. It arises from a tradition, that on a Sunday evening of the last century, when the boats were fishing, a tremendous gale, accompanied with thunder and light-

ning arose, which destroyed a great part of the fleet; while several of the boats, which had fled for refuge to a neighbouring cove, were crushed to pieces by the fall of the impending precipice. Whether this actually happened, or was only a fabrication of priestcraft, I have never been able to learn. It has however proved a real calamity to the country. The natives believe it an awful instance of the wrath of Heaven, and are thereby deterred from subjecting themselves to the like vengeance. This sacrifice of two days is very injurious to the fishery. From Friday to Monday evening the shoals of herrings move to some other ground; and frequently, as soon as they are discovered, the close of the week prevents any material advantage therefrom.

Were the boats to sail on the Saturday evening, the fish would be sold on the ensuing morning; and this, in the opinion of some, might occasion a bustle inconsis-

tent with the solemnity of the Sabbath. But what injury could be given to the most pious and enlightened mind, were the fishermen (after having, on the Sabbath-day, offered up to God in his temple the incense of grateful hearts) to sail with the evening tide, and gather in the blessings which Heaven, at this season, so copiously pours around them ?

During the fishery, the Island seems to awake from its native lethargy. Douglas is a scene of great festivity. This season is a jubilee to the fishermen ; and their wives and daughters come in groups from the interior parts of the country to heighten it. The Manksman shakes off his wonted sloth and melancholy, and assumes an air of gaiety and mirth. The day is passed in banqueting, and flowing cups go round ; gladness smiles in every eye ; the song echoes from every corner ; and not unfrequently dances conclude the festivity of the night.

To a generous mind it is highly gratifying, to observe some thousands deriving life and gladness from this employ. The pleasure however diminishes on reflecting, that all this gaiety and exertion will soon be over ; and that the Manksman, when he has basked, like a summer insect, for a little time in the sunshine of industry, will retire to his usual indolence and misery ; to his smoky cottage, and tattered family : for, till manufactures are more generally established, he will never know either a continuance of the comforts of life, or the blessings of society.

C H A P. XVI.

SALE OF THE ISLAND—VIEW OF TRADE PREVIOUS, AND
SUBSEQUENT, TO THAT PERIOD—ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE CUSTOMS—PRESENT IMPORTS—INSULAR REVENUE.

DURING the civil contests in England, occasioned by the weakness and ambition of Charles the First, several persons of fortune, having sought an asylum in this Island, introduced among the natives a greater flow of money. Previous to this period, their trade was chiefly transacted by an exchange of commodities; and their manner of conducting this business was not only beneficial to the community, but distinguished by its virtuous simplicity. To prevent any avaricious monopoly, four merchants were annually elected by the people to purchase foreign merchandize for the whole country. These, on the arrival of any vessel, laden

with salt, pitch, iron, &c. &c. appeared with the owner of the cargo before the Governor of the Island; when the value of each article was ascertained; and to the contract, then made by their commercial representatives, the country cheerfully acceded. The articles given in return were wool, hides, tallow, and other produce of the Island; but if these proved inadequate to the cargo imported, the residue was then paid for in money by a general assessment.

To a better acquaintance with the utility of specie, this primitive mode of commerce gradually yielded; and about the beginning of the present century wholly disappeared.

The increase of the customs, and the establishment of the excise in the neighbouring kingdoms, uniting with other causes, afterwards proved highly beneficial to the trade of this country: the Isle of Man thus became an important mart for those luxu-

ries, which the prodigality or policy of the state had loaded in Britain with oppressive imposts.

Cambrics, silks, tobacco, tea, wines, spirituous liquors, &c. &c. were imported from the continent *; and on their being landed here, paid a very trifling duty to the Lord†: but such were the quantities admitted, that they formed an ample revenue to him. Merchants from various countries flourished in every town of the Island; which, from its vicinity to the surrounding kingdoms, and the plenitude of *unexcised* luxuries, was much resorted to, by various hords of smugglers. Besides foreign adventurers, several of the inhabitants were actually en-

* According to the report of the Commissioners in London, were annually imported into this Island, wine, brandy, &c. from France and Spain; rum and coffee from the British Colonies; and East-India goods from Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Hamburgh, and the Netherlands.

† Trifling as the insular duties were, the Lord was frequently defrauded of them: notwithstanding this, they produced from 1754 to 1764, about 6,000*l.* annually.

gaged in this illicit commerce. An unlimited importation of goods was legal: but every exportation of them was in defiance of the laws of the land, which, at that time, were shamefully evaded.

This traffic was certainly injurious to the Island; yet many of the natives still look back with regret to that period. Individuals were certainly enriched thereby, but the body of the people were impoverished. The lands lay uncultivated, the fisheries were in a great measure neglected, and the morals of the people debauched.

Another evil attended this clandestine trade. It affected the revenue of Britain and Ireland to that degree, that it demanded the attention of the British Legislature. Accordingly, in the reign of George the First*, an act of parliament was passed, purporting, that as the commerce of Man was injurious to the interests of his Majesty's do-

* 1726.

minions, a pecuniary compensation should be granted to the Lord, and the feudal sovereignty of the Isle be in future annexed to the British Crown. But this, from various causes, was not accomplished till the fifth year of the reign of his present Majesty *; when the royalty, with all its dignities and emoluments, (the patronage of the Bishoprick excepted) was for ever re-vested in the Crown of Britain: the Duke of Athol enjoying, in lieu of his regalities, a grant of 70,000*l.* and a liberal annuity for the lives of himself and his Duchess.

The sale of the Island spread an universal terror through the country. The bustle of commerce ceased; and every countenance indicated fear and amazement. The merchants, imagining that the treasures of their warehouses would be immediately confiscated, disposed of them greatly beneath their original value, and retired to other

* March 7th, 1765.

countries; while many of the possessors of landed property, now deeming it of little consideration, sold it to any purchaser. Consequently, some were ruined, several were injured; and a very few individuals, of greater policy and penetration, amassed by this universal alarm, an immense fortune*. But though the sale of the Island was, in its immediate consequences, thus partially injurious to the country, it has since been deemed universally beneficial; and the natives are now taught by experience to regard it, as the greatest blessing.

Though the constitution of the country was in no instance affected by its revestment in the crown of Britain, the government of the Island certainly was. The revenue-department was now separated from the civil

* By a person who had been an eminent merchant in Ramary I was assured, that on the sale of the Island he sold fifty pipes of brandy at 2s. per gallon, payable by bills at three months; and before the time of payment arrived, every gallon of the brandy had been resold, at the advanced price of 10s. 6d.

establishment. A custom-house, in his Majesty's name, was erected at Douglas, and subject-offices in Peel, Castletown, and Ramsey; the establishment consisting of a Receiver-general, Collector, Comptroller*, and some inferior officers.

On completing the sale of the Island, Government, at the requisition of the Duke of Athol, consented to retain every officer of his appointment, except the Collector of the Customs. This office was then conferred on Richard Betham, Esq. L.L. D. †; who died in 1789, and was succeeded by the present Collector.

Since the establishment of the customs, the importation of foreign luxuries has been limited; and the imposts on them (though much inferior to the English duties) increased. There is however still an abun-

* The salary of the Comptroller is, exclusive of the fees, 100*l.* that of the Collector, considerably more.

† Dr. Betham was father-in-law to Captain Bligh, whose fortitude, amid unequalled dangers, the public have so justly admired.

dant variety. Exports may be made at Peel, Castletown, or Ramsay : but all imports of rum, tea, sugar, wine and tobacco, are only admissible at the Custom-house of Douglas.

The imports of the Island are numerous; and the duties various; but from every impost payable in England they are exempt*.

The oppression of excise is still unknown in this country. The duties are paid on

* French wines are charged with 4l. per tun, and Portugal wines with 2l. Rum pays 2s. a gallon; tobacco 3d. per lb; black tea 6d. and green tea 1s. Soap, sugar, and silk goods are charged with an impost of 5 per cent.; and other wares with 2½ ad valorem. The wines come directly from France and Portugal. The red port is greatly superior to what is generally drunk in England; and, including every duty and expence, costs the importer little more than 7d. a bottle. Thirty thousand gallons of rum are annually permitted from England, and 10,000 from Scotland. The duty was originally only 18d. a gallon; but an additional 6d. was afterwards imposed. Tobacco and loaf-sugar are generally imported from Liverpool. Previous to 1788, great quantities of each were annually imported; but this indulgence being abused, the former was confined to 40,000 lb. and the latter to 20 tons; a limitation more than adequate to the annual consumption of the Island.

the arrival of the goods, and they are then free from all future inspection. Foreign brandy and gin, being prohibited, may be seized by a custom-house officer; but all other articles of commerce are secure from his annoyance, unless they are detected in a clandestine exportation.

From the annual amount of the Imposts arises the insular revenue. Part of this supports the Civil Establishment, and the residue is annually remitted to the British Treasury; where it either lies dormant, or is applied to foreign purposes; although the principal harbour of the Island is in * ruins, and the jail a disgrace to humanity!

* Every boat engaged in the herring fishery pays annually 100. to the Customs; which sum, with the amount of the bay fisheries and the harbour dues, is applied to the *temporary* repairs of the various ports in the Island. See page 10.

C H A P. XVII.

TRADE OF THE ISLAND CONTINUED—EXPORTS—SKETCH
OF THE HERRING TRADE—OTHER EXPORTS—BALANCE
OF TRADE—AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURES RE-
COMMENDED—REFLECTIONS.

THE exports of the Island are not adequate to its imports; although Government, to promote a spirit of commercial industry among the Manks, has exempted from every fee and impost in Britain and Ireland, their produce and manufactures; and the importation of every article requisite for the culture of the lands, and the advancement of their manufactures and fisheries. Besides this indulgence, Government has granted a bounty of 1s. a barrel on herrings designed for British consumption, and an additional 2s. 6d. when exported to a foreign market.

As herrings are at present the staple commodity of the country, I shall here give a

sketch of this trade. During the fishery the price fluctuates from 2s. to 3s. a hundred; but near the close, the foreign smacks and red herring houses being supplied, it rapidly decreases to 1s. 6d. and sometimes even to 1s. They are then cured by the white herring merchants. The process is simple; and women are chiefly employed on this occasion. By girls, from nine to thirteen years of age, the herrings are carried in baskets from the boats; and on being conveyed to the herring houses are, by the more robust women, rubbed thoroughly with salt; after which they leave them to purify till next morning, when, with a layer of salt between each row of fish, they are barrelled*.

The trade is lucrative; but it ought to be considered, that a certain degree of

* A barrel contains about 600, which, including every expence, does not cost the curer, when landed in the English market, more than 12s. while the lowest sum it will command there is 1l. 1s. and frequently 1l. 5s.

risque is incurred : from a scarcity of fish, should the price exceed 2s. a hundred, almost all the expensive preparations for, and sanguine expectations from, the fishery are frustrated.

Those designed for red herrings are first regularly piled up with a layer of salt between each row, and for some days remain to purify. They are then washed ; and, when the water is sufficiently drained from them, are fixed by the mouth on small rods, and hung up in extensive houses built for the purpose. The houses are very high : in length exceeding thirty yards, and in width about twenty. The length is divided into several spaces ; and here the herring-rods are hung, reaching in rows from the roof of the house till within eight feet of the floor. The regularity of the ranks, and the lustre of the herrings, when newly hung up, make a very beautiful appearance.

Underneath, are kindled several fires of the dried roots of oak, which are kept continually smoking for four or five weeks: when the herrings, being sufficiently reddened, are barrelled, and shipped for some of the Mediterranean ports; from whence the vessels return with a cargo to Liverpool, and sometimes with a part of it for the Island. The master of the vessel is generally ignorant of the port for which he is destined, till he is a few leagues from Douglas. He then opens his orders; and it not unfrequently happens, that to one port many of the Manks cargoes are consigned.

Besides the herring-trade, the Island exports some quantities of grain, cattle, butter, bacon, lead, kelp, coarse linen, and spun cotton. But notwithstanding the amount of these, and the annual influx of wealth from the fishery, the balance of trade is against the Island: and should the fishery

considerably decline, from the present languishing state of manufactures, and the too great neglect of agriculture, this country would be almost ruined.

Many circumstances unite to favour the establishment of manufactures, and the further increase of agriculture in the Island. The land is exempt from taxation; the necessaries and comforts of life are abundant; the country would supply several manufacturing materials: while for the greater part of the produce of the land, and many of the manufactures, there would be an immediate demand at home; and for the residue an easy conveyance (from the central situation of the Island) to various markets abroad.

Thus, the balance of trade, which is now against the country, would be in its favour; and a permanent fountain of wealth opened in its centre, which, from the influx of the fishery, would annually over-

flow. But this demands a spirit of enterprise and activity, hostile to the native indolence of the Manks: many of whom sacrifice every consideration to the pursuit of the fishery; and when this terminates, retire to their clay-built cottages; where, surrounded by a squalid and tattered family, they slumber out the residue of the year in sloth and misery*.

Providence has given a liberal supply of the wealth of the sea to this Island, and the acquisition of this, during the season, ought to be prosecuted with avidity; but the remainder of the year should not be consumed in indolence. A society for establishing manufactures, and promoting a more general culture of the lands, would in this country be a most benevolent institution. The Manksman would then be

* The fishery commences in July, and usually terminates with the Autumnal equinox. Consequently nine months of the year are by many of the Manks passed in inactivity.

roused from his lethargy; he and his family amply participate of the comforts of life; the blessings of society increase; and, although the fishery should decline, these new channels of wealth would remain unexhausted.

C H A P. XVIII.

GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE MANKS—THEIR INDOLENCE—MELANCHOLY—SUPERSTITION—DISREGARD OF SCIENCE—CLERICAL CHARACTER—POVERTY OF GENIUS AND OF PUBLIC SPIRIT AMONG THE MANKS—THEIR ATTENTION TO PRIVATE CHARITY.

THIS account of the Isle of Man I shall now conclude with a general character of the natives; divesting myself of every prejudice, and only solicitous “to extenuate nothing, nor set down aught in malice.”

Indolence is a prominent feature of the Manks character; otherwise the lands would be more universally cultivated, and manufactures more generally established. From whatever causes this hereditary inactivity may spring I will not presume to say; but it certainly derives new influence from the quiet of the lonely vales and mountainous recesses, to which the greater part of the in-

habitants are accustomed from their childhood.

To a contemplative mind, solitude is a fountain of the sublimest enjoyments: operating however on an inert disposition, it only cherishes a sombrous melancholy; which, by enervating the mind, renders it a slave to every superstition; or what is still more unfortunate, eradicates every vestige of reason.

In support of this observation, I need only refer to some of the superstitious delusions of the natives; and to the harmless, but sullen lunatics, who so frequently distress the feeling mind in this country.

To a gloomy imagination thus nourished by indolence and solitude, perhaps may be imputed the general influence of Methodism in the Island. Being more ambitious to astonish the ignorant, by thundering forth the terrors of the law, than to captivate them, by displaying the mild beauty of the gospel, Methodism easily assimilates with gloomy

minds; heightens native melancholy by religious terrors; and rapidly establishes over the weak and superstitious an unlimited controul.

The inhabitants of the towns are however, in some degree, exempt from these evils. Society promotes activity; and activity dispels from the mind the cloud of superstition. Men, as they become more social, become more chearful and enlightened.

Among the higher classes of the Manks are some of polished manners, liberal minds, and real hospitality: but there are many more who, presuming on the wealth they have amassed, are haughty in their deportment, and illiberal in their prejudices.

The middle ranks have a greater air of politeness and hospitality; yet they have been frequently esteemed shrewd, selfish, insincere, and litigious. The lower classes

are like the vulgar in every country, only perhaps a little more inert and ignorant. They know little of the enjoyments of life; many of them consuming the greater part of the year in listless stupidity. Their habitations are miserable huts; their attire mean*, and their common diet thin barley cakes, or herrings and potatoes, with a beverage of milk and water. Being however of an athletic frame, they brave these hardships; and from the salubrity of the country, many of them arrive at a great age†.

The Manks are generally of a pensive physiognomy, seldom expressive of viva-

* The poorer sort of the men usually wear a kind of sandal, which they call Kerranes, made of untanned leather, cross-laced from the toe to the upper part of the instep, and gathered about the ankle.

† In summer the air is cooled by the sea-breezes; the winter is as mild as in the same latitude of the neighbouring countries; and though fogs are rather frequent, they do not appear to be injurious to the health of the inhabitants. Sea bathing is peculiarly delightful in this Island; the water being so lucid and pure, that the fine sandy bottom may be seen at a great depth.

city, or sublimity of mind. Some of the women however are beautiful; and a few of them not unacquainted with female accomplishments.

The liberal arts have few votaries in this country. Science is disregarded; and polite literature little cultivated. Their parochial clergy are more respectable for their virtues, than eminent for learning or genius. They are seldom distinguished by an university education; but at a clerical seminary in Castletown*, imbibe the elements of theology and classical lore. Their livings seldom exceed 100l. and are never inferior to 50l. yet, on this income they live contented and happy.

The solitude of the country, it may be presumed, would be favourable to the pur-

* To Bishop Barrow, the Manks clergy are eminently indebted. Besides several other instances of his beneficence to them, he founded, by donations which he collected in England, this academy; and by his own private charity, purchased two estates for the support of such young persons, as should be designed for the ministry.

suits of philosophy or literature; and its picturesque and romantic scenery to the indulgence of the imagination: yet the Isle of Man has not produced a person known in the neighbouring kingdoms, either by the vigour of intellect, or the fire of genius.

The Manks are like the Swiss and Highlanders, warmly attached to their native vales and mountains; tenacious of their ancient customs; and jealous of their hereditary rights and privileges. They have however few monuments of public spirit. The House of Keys is a mean building; the public jail a dungeon; and the principal harbour almost in ruins; while in the whole Island there is no public establishment for sheltering the destitute, protecting the insane, restoring the sick, or supporting the poor. Yet in this country *private* charity is liberal. In the herring season the bene-

volence of the fishermen feeds the poor* ; and during the residue of the year, they are supported by the weekly generosity of a few individuals. A sympathy for the distresses of others has been distinguished by Juvenal† as “ the highest ornament of our nature ;” and Charity by the sacred writers has been accounted the completion of human virtue.

I shall therefore conclude this sketch of the general character of the Manks with observing, that, notwithstanding several imperfections which a regard to truth, unaffected with prejudice, has forced me to point out, this country is distinguished, though not by public, by what is equally noble, private

* The Manks have the following generous proverb :

“ Tra ta yn derrey Vought cooney lesh hought elley ta see hene
“ garaghtee :” When one poor man relieves another, God himself rejoices at it ; or, as it is in the original, laughs outright.

† ————— Mollissima corda

Humano generi dare se Natura fatetur,

Quæ lacrymas dedit, hæc nostri pars optima sensus.

SAT. XV.

charity. And a higher honour can scarcely be inherited by a nation; for in the lustre which Benevolence throws over the general character, a generous mind forgets every blemish and imperfection.

END OF THE TOUR.

A REVIEW

OF THE

MANKS HISTORY.

C H A P. I.

A REVIEW OF THE MANKS HISTORY, FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DRUIDS, TO THE NORWEGIAN CONQUEST.

To trace the origin of nations, to elucidate their progress from barbarity to civilization, and, in a page illumined with the flame of genius, to give immortality to their patriots and heroes, is the office of the historic muse: but this dignity not corresponding with my present design, I shall promise little more than a chronological view of the kings of Man; with a sketch of the characters of those, rendered conspicuous by their crimes, or virtues.

The Isle of Man was known to the ancients by various names. Cæsar distinguishes it by that of *Mona**. Ptolemy calls it *Mo-*

* The *Mona* of Tacitus is *Anglesea*.

næda, or the more remote Mōna; Pliny Monabia, and others Eubonia. Buchanan stiles it Mana, the natives Manning, and the English Man; which appellation, Bishop Wilson derives from the Saxon word ~~Man~~ *Manng**; this Island being literally *among* the neighbouring kingdoms.

The original inhabitants most probably migrated from Britain; and as their chief employment was hunting, they lived in tribes, and their primitive government was patriarchal. To this form succeeded the civil and religious institutions of the Druids; a race of sacred and venerable legislators, who, after the general massacre of their brethren in Anglesea, reigned over the affections of the natives of Mona, till the close of the fourth century; when the light of Christianity penetrating the gloom of their umbrageous oaks, their admirable fabric of religion and morality gradually yielded to a system, which,

* Signifying *among*.

in some of its most important doctrines, resembled, yet infinitely surpassed, their own*.

By embracing Christianity, the legislative dignity of the Druids was not immediately affected †; for according to the Manks tradition, they and their descendants, continued, for several years, the teachers and rulers of the people‡. But at length an irruption of northern Barbarians, spreading anarchy and devastation through the country, overthrew their dominion: and a long period ensued, in which the history of this

• See Chap. XII.

† During this period, the Isle of Man, according to Boetius and other writers, was the fountain of all pure learning; the residence of the Muses; and a literary retirement for the heirs of the crown of Scotland. From this it may be presumed, that the erudition, genius, and virtue of the Druids for some ages survived their religious establishment in this country.

‡ Ninnius mentions the invasion of this Island by one Binlè a Scot; and other Writers its reduction by Edwin, King of Northumberland: but these were temporary ravages, and not conquests.

Island is involved in darkness and fable, till
the descent of

ORRY,

in the tenth century.

This Prince was of the Danish line, and after subduing the Orcades and Hebrides, at last established his throne in Mona. Though he assumed the government by violence, his reign was undisturbed by any domestic commotion: and to his polity the Manks are indebted for the origin of their Constitutional Representatives; who for several succeeding ages sometimes feebly opposed, but more frequently sanctioned regal oppression. After a long reign, ORRY was succeeded by his son,

GUTTRED;

A Prince who devoted his attention to the welfare of his subjects: He erected the noble relic of Danish architecture, Castle-Rushen; and in that durable monument of his regal grandeur lies obscurely buried.

The third Prince of the Danish line was

REGINALD,

who sacrificed the dignity of his character to lust and intemperance. His vices accelerated his ruin: for having seduced a lady whose brothers were soldiers of fortune, they revenged her dishonour by the death of her seducer. On this event,

OLAVE,

having assumed the crown, without the approbation of the King of Denmark, was with much apparent friendship invited to his court: but on his arrival was arraigned, and executed as a traitor to the supremacy of the Danish throne. His brother

OLAIN,

succeeded him, who, after an equitable reign, died in Ireland, and had for his successor

ALLEN;

whose memory has been branded with every crime. He was poisoned by his Governor, and most probably succeeded by

MACON;

a gallant Prince, who, for refusing homage to the English crown, was deprived of the diadem of the Isles. It was however soon afterwards restored to him with a plenitude of honour. He was created by the English Monarch, Admiral of a numerous fleet, with which he annually circumnavigated the British Isles; to guard them from the rapine and barbarity of the Scandinavian pirates, who, at this period, were a terror to the neighbouring kingdoms. It is uncertain how long he reigned, or by whom he was succeeded: but in the eleventh century,

GODRED CROVAN,

a Norwegian hero, having accompanied his king in the invasion of England, and being there defeated, sought an asylum in this Island, where he was hospitably received by the natives. The reigning Prince of Man at this period was Godred the son of Syrric, who from his cowardice, barbarity, and in-

justice, became odious to his subjects. With a penetrating eye Godred Crovan observed the discontents of the people; and animated by regal ambition, formed the daring project of dethroning the King. But this ambitious plan he concealed from the inhabitants; till he should be invested with force sufficient to command success. To obtain this, he withdrew to his native country; and arming a numerous fleet, with great expedition returned to this Island. In his absence the tyrant died, and

FINGAL,

his son, was seated on the throne; from whose youth, mildness, and generosity, the Manks promised themselves many blessings. The virtues of this Prince, inspiring his subjects with heroic loyalty, for some time frustrated the hopes of the invader; who, being twice repulsed, effected by stratagem what he could not accomplish by violence. In a dark night he concealed in a wood,

under a hill near Ramsay, three hundred of his troops ; and on the morning landed the remainder of his forces ; which, being opposed by the Manks with their usual heroism, were again almost vanquished. But in the moment of supposed victory Godred vigorously renewing the combat, the troops that formed the ambuscade now burst upon the rear of the Manks army. A well-disputed conflict ensued : and at length the tide of conquest turned against the Manks. Their King with the prime of his nobility fell in the battle, and the residue yielded to the generosity of the Conqueror.

C H A P. II.

A REVIEW OF THE MANKS HISTORY, FROM THE NORWEGIAN CONQUEST TO THE DEATH OF GODRED THE SON OF OLAVE.

ON the day after the battle, (A. D. 1066) Godred assembling his army, submitted to their choice, either to divide the lands among themselves, and reside here; or to plunder the Island, and return to their own country. Many of the soldiers, eager to pillage those whom they had conquered, preferred the latter alternative; and enriching themselves by rapine, returned home with the spoils their ferocity had acquired. But others of greater spirit and policy being desirous of sharing

* At this period commences the *Chronicon Manniæ*, which terminates with the Scottish Conquest. It was written by the Monks of Rushen-Abbey, and published by Camden in his *Britannia*. Its authenticity being corroborated by various testimonies, I have, with a few deviations, followed the outlines of it in this and the subsequent chapter.

in a foreign land, the fortunes of a Chief who had led them to conquest, he divided among them the south department of the Island; while the northern division he granted to the natives, on express condition, that no man should ever claim any inheritance. Thus, Godred, having conquered, soon began to enslave the people.

Tyrants are ever suspicious of their subjects; and as they know that peace is favourable to reflection, and reflection to liberty, they usually precipitate them into a foreign war; thereby, confirming oppression at home, and spreading devastation in other countries. With this policy (of which our modern princes seem so ambitious) Godred was not unacquainted. Observing a spirit of discontent rising among his subjects, he formed the young and vigorous into a fine army, with which he successfully invaded Dublin, and then returned to the Island, loaden with the spoils of conquest.

The western Scots having however checked him in his career of victory, Godrede equipped a considerable fleet to resent these hostilities. He awed a part of Scotland, and subdued the Hebrides: but the honour acquired by these new victories he did not long enjoy; for he soon after died in one of those Islands which had lately submitted to him.

He was majestic in his person; noble in his aspect; and of a bold, penetrating, and politic genius. To the feelings of mercy he was not wholly insensible; but the principles of justice he accounted trifles beneath the regard and dignity of one, who, by his heroism and policy, had seated himself on a foreign throne.

Godred, (A. D. 1082,) was succeeded by his eldest son,

LAGMAN;

who having murdered his brother Harold, on suspicion of promoting a rebellion among the soldiery, resigned his crown for the cross:

and, according to the devotional absurdity of those ages, undertook a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, as an expiation for his fraternal barbarity. He died at Jerusalem; (A.D. 1089,) and his youngest brother,

OLAVE,

the third son of Godred the Conqueror, being then very young, the Nobility of the Isles sent to Murcard O'Brian, King of Ireland; soliciting him to appoint some person of royal descent, as regent of the kingdom during Olave's minority. In compliance with their request, the King sent Donald Tade, who, for his oppression and barbarity, was soon expelled the Island by an indignant people. Olave, their natural Prince, was then a youth in the court of Henry the First: and the Chiefs of the Isles being anxious to seat on the throne a man of mature abilities, elected Mac Manis*,

* According to some authors his name was Mac Marus.

whose merit amply sanctioned their choice. From the pride and jealousy of Earl Outher, a conspiracy was however, (A. D. 1098,) formed against him; and in the combat which it occasioned, both the Prince and conspirator, with many of their partizans, were slain. By this civil contest the kingdom being considerably weakened, it became an easy prey to Magnus, King of Norway; who, influenced by an absurd superstition, resigned his own crown, and spread havock and rapine through the neighbouring countries. He reigned for six years in this Island; but in attempting the reduction of Ireland, he was surrounded by the natives, and with the greater part of his followers, after fighting with astonishing valour, was at length slain.

Upon his death, (A.D. 1102) the Nobility of the Isles sent a solemn and splendid embassy to Olave, their hereditary Prince; who to youth and beauty united a graceful

deportment, with a gallant and generous mind. Being esteemed by the surrounding Princes, and beloved by his own subjects, his reign for many years was just, tranquil, and happy*. But at length resolving to visit the King of Norway, (probably with the intention of doing homage for his crown) on his return, he found his kingdom agitated by the violence and intrigues of his three nephews, who had now a considerable army at their command. Being perhaps more anxious for the peace and welfare of his subjects, than the maintenance of his regal dignity, Olave proposed an accommodation with his nephews. The two armies accordingly encamped near Ram-

* During this tranquility, he reformed the laws, and humanized the manners of his subjects. He was also liberal to the clergy. The Abbey of Rushen, founded by Mac Manis, he richly endowed in 1134, and gave to Evan, Abbot of Furness, as a seminary for the church of the Isles; the revenue of which he divided into three portions. One third of the tythes was appropriated to the maintenance of the Bishop; the second portion to the Abbey of Rushen; and the residue to the secular clergy.

say, at a little distance from each other. Between the armies, the King, the Princes, and their respective Nobility assembled. During their deliberation, Reginald, one of the Princes, pretending to salute the King, with one blow of his battle-ax beheaded him; while this detestable act was only a signal for the general slaughter of his nobility, and the most ferocious oppression of his subjects.

But the crimes of these atrocious brothers did not long elude the vengeance they merited: for

GODRED,

the son of Olave, in 1143, returning from the Norwegian court where he had been left by his father, the whole Island spontaneously submitted to him; and with unanimous consent, delivered to his vengeance the three sons of Harold: two of whom were deprived of their eyes, and the murderer of the King publicly executed. When Godred assumed the government of his

"

kingdom, he was in the bloom of youth and beauty; majestic in his stature; magnanimous in his sentiments; and heroic in his actions. These graces, uniting with a remembrance of his father's virtues, gained the adoration of his own subjects, and the admiration of the neighbouring kingdoms. From the celebrity of his virtue and heroism, the people of Dublin and the nobility of the Province of Leinster elected him their King. But this singular honour involved him in various contests, and subjected him to future misfortunes. Murchard, King of Ireland, opposed him; but Godred, having routed the enemy, seated himself on the throne to which he had been raised by the suffrages of the people. His absence however occasioned discontents among his hereditary subjects; which were fomented by the factious and turbulent. To calm these he returned to Man; and having severely punished some of the disaffected;

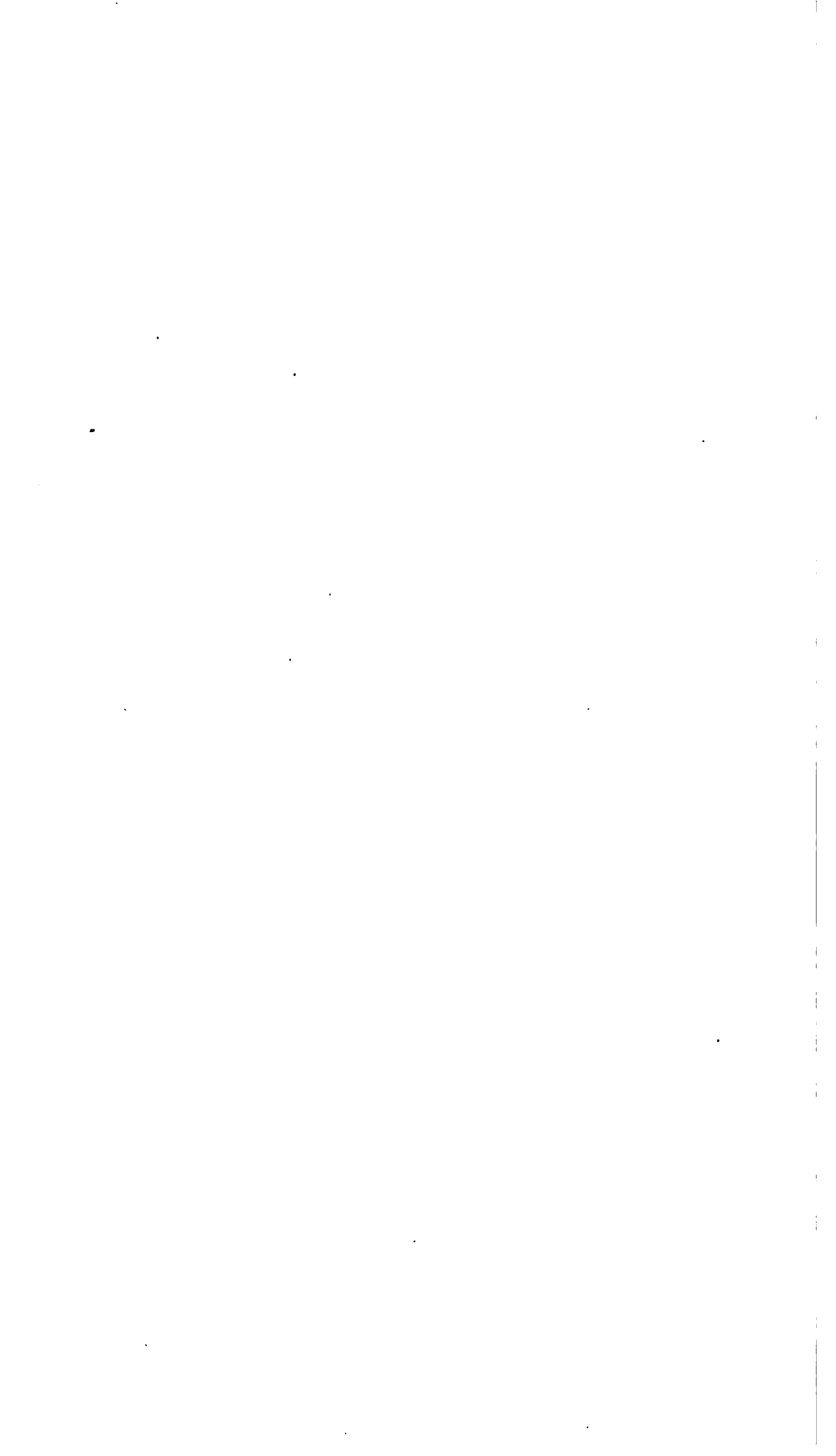
Thorfinus, a subtle, sullen, and ferocious Chief, fled to Summerled, Thane of Argyle, and brother-in-law to Godred. This bold and ambitious Prince was soon instigated by Thorfinus, to invade the Western Isles, which he soon reduced. In the mean time, Godred equipped a fleet of eighty vessels, and engaged him at sea. A dreadful conflict ensued; which terminating in a doubtful victory, occasioned a division of the kingdom of the Isles. Godred retained Man; and the other Islands were ceded to Summerled. However, in 1158, Summerled, presuming on the factions and discontents which still existed among the natives, invaded and subdued Man. The King escaped to Norway, and Summerled with much ferocity oppressed those whom he had conquered. His ambition increasing with his success, he projected the reduction of Scotland; but in attempting to land his forces he was vanquished by a small body

of the inhabitants, and with his son and the greater part of his army was sacrificed to their just vengeance.

Freed from the tyranny of this usurper, the nobility and people of the Isles fondly remembered the virtues of their hereditary Prince. His exile and sufferings had endeared him to the loyal; and from the disaffected had obliterated the remembrance of every injury. While the esteem of the people was thus directed towards Godred, the kingdom of the Isles was invaded by his illegitimate brother, Reginald. The Manks with much bravery opposed his forces; but through the treachery of one of their leaders were defeated. However, on the fourth day after the battle, Godred with a numerous army arrived from Norway; and having vanquished Reginald, was received by his subjects with the most generous and loyal affection.

After his re-establishment on the throne, he visited the more remote parts of his kingdom: and on his return to Man, (the usual residence of the Kings of the Isles) he devoted the residue of his reign to the welfare of his subjects*; until 1187, when he died, justly revered and lamented by them.

* On the celebration of his marriage with Fingala, a descendant of the Royal Family of Ireland, Godred endowed a small plantation of the Cistercian order at Mirescoge; (conjectured to be Balamona in Christ-Kirk Lez-Ayre) the Monks of which were afterwards incorporated with those of Rushen.



C H A P. III.

A REVIEW OF THE MANKS HISTORY, FROM THE DEATH
OF GODRED, THE SON OF OLAVE, TO THE SCOTTISH
CONQUEST.

THE long and happy tranquillity which the Manks enjoyed, under the government of Godred the son of Olave, was soon disturbed by the contests of his sons for the diadem of the Isles.

REGINALD,

the eldest, being illegitimate, Olave was elected king : but as the former was of a mature age, and of a bold, subtle, and politic genius, he soon triumphed over his younger brother. The Usurper then banished the young Prince to the Isle of Lewis; among the barren solitudes of which he and his faithful adherents were almost famished. From misfortune the mind some-

times derives new vigour. Olave, instead of yielding to increasing hardships, was ambitious of combating them. He returned to Man, and boldly remonstrated with Reginald; but the tyrant, so far from mitigating, heightened his sufferings. The Prince was delivered as a captive to the King of Scotland; and by his severity was for seven years imprisoned and loaded with chains. On the death of that Monarch he was liberated: and being supported by several of the Nobility of the Isles, he again returned to Man; and soon afterwards obtained a moiety of the kingdom. Reginald retained the government of Man, and part of the Western Isles was ceded to the younger brother. The pride of the Usurper being however severely wounded by this division of the Isles, he attempted again to subject them to his dominion: but unable to achieve this act of injustice, he sailed for Scotland to solicit

the assistance of the Lord of Galloway. Emboldened by the absence, and impatient of the barbarity and oppression of Reginald, the Manks invited

OLAVE

to the throne; who, on his return, was welcomed by the people with reiterated shouts of heart-felt joy.

Reginald, thus exiled from his kingdom by the voice of the nation, visited the court of England; and to recover his crown, proffered homage to King John, and submission to the Pope. Relying on their protection, and assisted by the Lord of Galloway and the Earl of Athol, he conducted a ferocious army to desolate a country, from which his crimes had expelled him. Olave being then absent in the more remote Isles, accompanied by the flower of his Nobility and soldiery; the Isle of Man was thus exposed to the inhumanities of a tyrant, glowing with revenge, and to the lust and brutality of

his barbarous army. Having for the present satiated his vengeance, by murdering the men, ravishing the women, burning the churches, &c. &c. he fled from the just resentment and indignation of his brother, who speedily returned to save his kingdom from utter devastation. However, in the ensuing winter, Reginald again returned with a few vessels, and at midnight burnt all the shipping belonging to Olave and the Nobility of the Isles, which was then lying at anchor under Peel-Castle. He then sailed to Derby-Haven, and, pretending to solicit reconciliation with his brother, by his bold demeanour and subtle insinuations, seduced many of the inhabitants from their loyalty to him. Notwithstanding this defection of many of his subjects, the men of the northern division were determined to conquer, or die, with Olave. A civil war was thus begun, which was terminated by a dreadful combat

near the site of the Tynwald. Reginald fell in the battle: and probably over the relics of him and his followers, that noble Tumulus (afterwards distinguished as the throne of legislation to the kingdom of Man) was reared by his pious brother.

Thus fell the tyrant Reginald, whose abilities were great, but his vices greater. As a Prince he was brave and politic; as a King cruel and oppressive; as an Exile intrepid and adventurous; and as a Conqueror inhumanly atrocious. His claim to real valour is greatly diminished by his voluntary homage to John, King of England, and his pusillanimous submission to the Pope. Perhaps in comparing his character with that of John, his cotemporary, there may appear a great similitude. Both princes were treacherous, subtle, and adventurous. The English Monarch gained the crown by the murder of his nephew: and the Manks Prince

by the exile of his brother: and as they obtained the government by injustice, so they lost it by oppression. Both offended the clergy; insulted the nobility; and violated the rights and possessions of the people. Both annihilated their regal dignity by submission to the Pope; and both have now, with great justice, been consigned to perpetual infamy.

After the death of Reginald, Olave enjoyed some years of prosperous tranquillity, revered and beloved by his subjects *. He died at Peel-Castle, in 1237, and was succeeded by his son,

HAROLD;

a youth whose personal and mental accomplishments recommended him to the esteem

* For defending the sea-coast, Henry the Third, in 1236, granted Olave 40 Marks, 100 Quarters of Corn, and 5 Tuns of Wine annually; so long as he should perform that service. As the power of the Norwegian Crown began to decline, the Scotch seemed to have meditated a descent on the Isles; which probably forced the Kings at this period to solicit the protection of England.

and affection of his subjects. Soon after his accession he sailed to Norway, and paid homage to that Monarch for the diadem of the Isles. Having thus acknowledged his dependance on the Norwegian crown, he was solicitous to promote the security and happiness of his kingdom, by forming alliances with the neighbouring princes. By Henry the Third he was invited into England; and so highly was he esteemed by that Monarch, that he conferred on him the honour of knighthood. Soon after, he received an invitation from Haco, King of Norway; and in his court was entertained with splendid festivity; while to crown the honours thus conferred upon him, he married the lovely daughter of the Norwegian Monarch. But how fleeting is human happiness! Returning to the kingdom of Man, with his young and beautiful Princess, attended by a numerous train of Nobility of both sexes, they perished by shipwreck on

the coast of Redland! This Prince was succeeded, in 1249, by his brother,

REGINALD;

who was soon after sacrificed to the revenge of the Knight Ivar, as more fully narrated in the historical account of Rushen-Abbey*.

Reginald's successor was his brother,

MAGNUS;

who being raised to the throne by the voice of the nation, was confirmed thereon by the King of Norway. Magnus was the last Prince of the Norwegian line in Mona. He died in 1265, and was buried in the Abbey-church of Rushen; which some years before, Richard, Bishop of the Isles, at the command of Magnus, had dedicated to the blessed Virgin.

From the beginning of the tenth century, to the death of Magnus, the kingdom of Man (to which were usually annexed the

* See Chap. VII of the Tour.

Western Isles of Scotland) was governed by a race of Danish or Norwegian Princes; chiefly subject to the homage, and frequently to the controul, of the Crown of Norway. But the period had now arrived, when these Isles should submit to another Conqueror.

Norway for five hundred years had spread terror and devastation through Europe: had given Dukes to Normandy; Kings to Sicily and Man; and Conquerors to England. But, by these foreign conquests and establishments, her real strength was so exhausted, that she soon yielded to the more powerful kingdom of Denmark. Alexander the Third, King of Scotland, an active and politic Prince, soon regained the Hebrides*,

* To secure by policy, what he had obtained by conquest, Alexander engaged to give Magnus, then King of Norway, 4000 marks for renouncing all title to the dominion of the Isles; besides a sum of 100 marks to be paid annually, by himself and his successors for ever, in the church of St. Magnus in the Orkneys.

which had formerly been wrested from his ancestors by the Norwegian arms: and Mona, no longer protected by the Crown of Norway, in 1270, increased the honours of his Conquest*.

* According to some traditions, Ivar, favoured by the widow of Magnus, assumed the government of Man; and after opposing with great heroism the Scottish invasion, fell with five hundred and thirty-seven gallant warriors, who scorned to survive the liberty of their country.

C H A P. IV.

A REVIEW OF THE MANKS HISTORY, FROM THE SCOTTISH CONQUEST TO THE ACCESSION OF THE HOUSE OF STANLEY.

ALEXANDER having subdued the ancient kingdom of Man, submitted it to be governed by Thanes or Lieutenants; against whose tyranny the natives struggled for several years. At length, impelled by their distresses, they rose, determined either to exterminate the Scots, or perish in the attempt. They were however restrained from this resolution by the influence of their Bishop; who shuddering at such a general effusion of blood, proposed to decide the future fate of the country by a combat of select warriors. The Scots being elated by their former success, and the Manks fired with that enthusiasm which the love

of liberty ever inspires, both parties eagerly assented. Thirty heroes were selected from each nation : a vale was appointed for the lists ; and on the opposite mountains were ranged the two nations, anxious spectators of the valour of the combatants. The engagement commenced about three hours before noon ; and with various success continued till sunset, when the last of the Manks warriors fell. Astonishing feats of heroism were displayed on each side : the Scots obtained the victory ; but their Thane was pressed to death by the multitude, and twenty-five of their combatants were slain*.

The Natives thus finding every effort to restore their ancient Government frustrated, reluctantly bowed their necks to the rigorous yoke of the Scottish Monarch. The prudence and generosity of Maurice

* From this combat probably arose an ancient law in this Island, for deciding controversies by prowess ; which was prudently abolished in 1429.

Okerfair*, and the mildness of his Successor, for a few years mitigated their oppression: but the Manks were soon again subjected to the controul of masters less politic and merciful, under the rod of whose power their sufferings increased. With regret they looked back to the warlike dignity of their hereditary Kings; and now highly prized even the small portion of freedom they sometimes enjoyed under them. Remembrance of past happiness heightened their present wretchedness. The martial Genius which had animated them to repel the invader at home, or atchieve conquests abroad, was no longer terrible. The virtues of the people gradually degenerated; till at length, by the tyranny of their new conquerors, the Manks nation

* He attempted to extinguish the animosities of the two nations, by commanding thirty intermarriages to be celebrated in one day.

sunk into a race of sullen and indolent slaves*.

The Scottish Monarchy preserved her conquest of the Hebrides; but the Isle of Man was, after various contests, finally wrested from her by the English arms. Sir William Montacute, an affable and generous hero, who had married a descendant of Godred Crovan, being furnished, by Edward the Third, with an army and navy to prosecute his lady's right, soon reduced the Island; and, by command of the English Monarch, in 1344, was crowned King of Man. But Montacute did not long retain this ho-

* This degeneracy is not peculiar to the Manks nation. When the divine flame of Liberty enlightened and animated Greece, her sons were accounted beings of a superior rank to the rest of mankind: but when the Sun of Freedom visited other climes, Science, Genius, and Virtue expired in that country; and the descendants of those great men sunk into the most abject slavery. Even at this day, they are only distinguished from the hordes of slaves who surround the Turkish throne, by a baser servility.

nour: his pecuniary exigencies compelling him to mortgage his kingdom to Anthony Beck, Bishop of Durham; a subtle and avaricious bigot, who soon after obtained a Grant of the Island from Richard the Second. On this Prelate's decease, the kingdom of Man returned to Montacute, now created Earl of Salisbury; who soon after sold it to Sir William Scroop, Chamberlain to the King. Scroop was an artful sycophant of Richard the Second; and to gratify his own avarice and ambition, deluded his Sovereign into those errors, which soon terminated in the ruin of both*. Richard's fate is well known. Scroop, on Henry's assumption of the crown of England, was beheaded; and the Isle of Man was then granted by that Monarch to Percy, Earl of Northumberland, and his heirs; on condition that

* For opposing the despotic measures of Richard the Second, the Earl of Warwick was condemned to perpetual imprisonment in this Island.

they should carry on their left shoulder, at the coronation of the English Monarchs, the sword with which Henry was girt when he entered England. To the power and influence of Percy, Henry was considerably indebted for the crown he had assumed. His services merited the gratitude of the King: but the honours he obtained, being either inferior to his merit or ambition, he boldly attempted to shake the throne, which he had so zealously contributed to establish. The vigilance and policy of Henry frustrated his perfidy: while the just resentment of the Monarch deprived him of this ample domain.

The Isle of Man was then, in the sixth year of the same reign, conferred on

SIR JOHN STANLEY

for life: and soon afterwards, (A. D. 1406,) he enjoyed a new and ample Grant*, which

* This Grant contained the royalties and manerial rights of the Isle, as amply as any former Lord had enjoyed them; with

extended to his heirs and successors ; “ to
“ be held of the crown of England by *liege*
“ *homage*, and the service of rendering to
“ the English Monarchs two Falcons on
“ their coronation.”

By this liberality of Henry the Fourth, Sir John Stanley and his Descendants obtained a plenitude of regal power and dignity. Nor was this æra inauspicious to the Manks nation. It does not present a gloomy picture of the turbulence of heroes, or the devastation of conquerors: but a record of the People, limiting the prerogative of their Kings; combating the despotism of their Governors; and establishing a form of legislation, which, notwithstanding its imperfections, is to this day revered as the sacred constitution of the country.

the patronage of the Bishoprick, and the advowson of all other Ecclesiastical Benefices.

C H A P. V.

A REVIEW OF THE MANKS HISTORY, FROM THE ACCESSION OF THE HOUSE OF STANLEY TO THE REVESTMENT OF THE ROYALTY OF THE ISLE IN THE BRITISH CROWN.

BEFORE I proceed to enumerate the Princes of the Stanley line, it may not be improper to observe, that their personal history, except in a few instances, is unconnected with the public transactions of the Island. Being Subjects of England, they generally resided in that country; and so long as their Lieutenants remitted the revenues of the kingdom, they supinely acquiesced in their administration. For more than three centuries this family enjoyed the regal government of Man; yet in so long a period few of them possessed the ambition or generosity to visit their subjects: and when they conferred this honour, either their interests in

the Island were threatened, or their personal safety in England endangered.

Sir John Stanley, on whom the munificence of Henry the Fourth had conferred the royalty of this Island, died in 1414; and was succeeded by his son,

SIR JOHN STANLEY;

a man of a politic and penetrating genius. During the reign of his predecessor, the Island paid him homage as Heir-apparent; and after his father's decease, the anarchy of the state, and the discontents of his new subjects, again forced him to visit his kingdom. Previous to this period, the Laws of the Island resided in the breasts of their Deemsters. Under the pretext of witnessing the promulgation of these, but with the real design of asserting his prerogative, and intimidating the vulgar by a display of majesty, he convened, in 1417, the whole body of the people at the Tynwald*. As

* See Chap. XI. of the Tour.

King of Man he was invested with the insignia of royalty. The diadem flamed on his brow; and the regal mantle flowed in all its splendour. On the summit of the mount was placed a chair of state, canopied with crimson velvet, and richly embroidered with gold. In this chair he was enthroned; his face fronting the East, and a sword in his hand pointed toward Heaven. His Deemsters sate before him; and on the highest circle his Barons and beneficed men: on the middle circle were seated the twenty-four Keys, then stiled "the worthiest men" in the land;" and on the lowest circle the Knights, Esquires, and Yeomen; while the Commons stood without the circuit of the Hill, with three Clerks in their surplices. The Hill was guarded *by the Coroners and Moars, armed with their swords and axes; and a proclamation was issued, by the Coro-

* Tynwald is derived from the Danish words Ting, a Court of Justice; and Wald, fenced.

ner of Glanfaba, denouncing those, who should in the time of Tynwald murmur in the King's presence. Accordingly, the people waited with an awful silence the future fate of their nation, in the promulgation of those laws which had for so many ages been industriously concealed from them. The venerable Deemsters then rising, with an audible voice, alternately published to this assembly several laws; which, though more an assertion of the King's prerogative, than a declaration of the rights of his subjects, were received by the people with reiterated acclamations.

Having thus, as he fondly imagined, established his prerogative on a permanent basis, he returned to England: and the people no longer dazzled, or intimidated by the splendour of royalty, revolted against the laws they had so recently accepted. Their turbulence once more compelled him to visit his kingdom. On his arrival, another con-

vention was summoned in 1422 at the Tynwald; and in the same year a third assembly of the people was appointed at Castle-Rushen. The laws which were then framed, by a bolder assertion and extension of prerogative, seemed solely intended to awe the nation into greater subjection. These he commanded to be recorded; and flattering himself that he had now subdued, what *he* deemed, the presumption of the people, again hastened to England.

Among other acts it was in the last assembly decreed, that the election of the Twenty-four Keys, or Representatives of the Nation, was solely dependant on the "will and pleasure" of the King. But this being deemed an encroachment on the ancient constitution of the country, raised such discontent and commotion, that Henry Byron, Lieutenant of the Isle, judged it prudent to summon, in 1430, a fourth con-

vention at the Tynwald. On this memorable occasion, Thirty-six Freeholders, who had been previously elected by the people, were by the Nation presented to the Governor: and from this number he selected TWENTY-FOUR; being four men from every Sheading or Hundred of the Island. Sir John Stanley was then in England, but he soon afterwards confirmed this restoration of the House of Keys to their ancient independence.

He died about the year 1441, and was succeeded by his son,

THOMAS;

whom Henry the Sixth created Baron Stanley. He died in 1460: and his son and successor,

THOMAS,

received an increase to the honours of his family; being created Earl of Derby by

Henry the Seventh. On his decease, in 1504, his grandson,

THOMAS,

succeeded to all his hereditary honours: he was the second Earl of Derby, and of the Stanley line, the fifth King of Man. However, to shelter himself from the jealous ambition of Henry the Eighth, he resigned the regal title: and though his successors imitated his policy, they enjoyed, as Lords of the Isle, all the power and dignity of princes. Thomas, dying in 1521, was succeeded by his son,

EDWARD;

in whose reign the Bishoprick of Sodor and Man, formerly united to the Province of Canterbury, was rendered subject to the metropolitical jurisdiction of York. His son and successor,

HENRY,

visited the Island about the year 1592: and having there calmed some commotions of

his subjects, he returned to England; where he soon afterwards died.

His eldest son,

FERDINAND,

did not long enjoy the wealth and honours he inherited from his father; being poisoned, in 1594, by one of his domestics.

WILLIAM,

the younger brother, being abroad when he died, his right to inherit the Island was disputed by Ferdinand's daughters; and during the tedious contest that ensued, the Government of Man was committed, by Queen Elizabeth, to Sir Thomas Gerard. At length the right of inheritance being decided, by the common law of England, in favour of the Heirs General; William judged it prudent, by a pecuniary compensation, to satisfy their demands. Having accomplished this, he soon after obtained from James the First a new Grant

of the Isle of Man; expressed in terms equally liberal with that, which Henry the Fourth had conferred on his ancestors; and this ample grant he had the policy and interest to have confirmed, to him and his heirs, by an act of parliament. However, on the death of his lady, he resigned all his possessions to his son, James; reserving only an annual competency, with which he retired to a pleasant villa on the banks of the Dee; where he passed the evening of his age in those tranquil enjoyments, which a contemplative mind (particularly in the decline of life) is ever disposed to derive from solitude.

He died in 1642; and was succeeded by

JAMES,

the Seventh Earl of Derby, and of the Stanley family the Tenth Lord of Man. This nobleman distinguished himself by an enthusiastic ardour to support Charles the First; when that weak and misguided Prince attempted, with the arm of prerogative, to

destroy the sacred rights of mankind. Like his Sovereign, the Earl of Derby fell a sacrifice to the just resentment of the people. But the recital of his valour and sufferings, the magnanimity of his lady *, and the neglect and ingratitude † his family experienced from Charles the Second, I shall leave to the English historian; and confine myself to such transactions of this nobleman, as are more intimately connected with my present subject.

In 1643 he was commanded by Charles the First to retire to the Isle of Man; not only for its defence, but also, that by his presence he might check the spirit of liberty, which had animated his subjects to resist the rigour of their Lieutenants,

* Charlotte, daughter of Claude, Duke de la Tremouille.

† Though he strenuously adhered to Charles the Second, that prodigal Prince refused his assent to a Bill, passed *unanimously* by both Houses of Parliament, for restoring to the family such parts of the estates in England as had been lost by their loyalty to him and his father!—A memorable instance of the *gratitude* of princes!

and the more odious oppression of their clergy. The discontents of the nation were however so violent, that he judged it prudent to convene the Twenty-four Keys, and Sixty-eight * parochial Representatives. From each body he selected twelve men; whom he appointed to investigate, and present all such abuses as had been committed against the laws of the land and the public weal. This assembly discharged with fidelity the duty they owed to their constituents and to posterity: for, several abuses (chiefly clerical) were presented, and immediately abolished. And as the people formerly combated with success the encroachments of prerogative, they now tri-

* There are seventeen parishes in the Island: accordingly, four representatives for every *parish* were summoned on this occasion. This selection from the Keys and parochial Representatives did not affect the Constitution of the Country. They had not power to abrogate or frame Laws, but only to present and investigate abuses; which being chiefly clerical, the Friends of a Reform prudently judged, that the amplest support was necessary, to eradicate those evils the Church had sanctioned.

umphed over the pride and avarice of their spiritual oppressors*.

Having thus established tranquillity among his subjects, he hastened from Man, to support his lady, who was then gallantly defending Latham-house against a detachment of the parliamentary forces, under the command of General Fairfax. But soon after, through the jealousy of some potent courtiers, he was again compelled to visit the Island. The mortifications he thus suffered from the sycophants of a weak Prince, to whom he was zealously devoted, were mitigated by the presence of his Lady and family, who on this occasion accompanied him. During his residence here, General Ireton proposed to him the re-possession of his estates in England, on condition of surrendering the Isle of Man to the Parlia-

* Though the errors of Popery in this Island yielded to the reformed principles, soon after their establishment in England; yet, till 1643, the Clergy retained an ample portion of intolerant power.

ment : but this proposal the Earl of Derby treated with the highest indignation. His answer is preserved in Hume's history ; and is more distinguished by enthusiasm and arrogance, than calm magnanimity.

After the death of Charles the First, the Earl of Derby, being invited to England by the young Prince, returned with three hundred soldiers of birth and fortune, leaving his Lady and part of his family in the Island. He was present at the battle of Worcester, from the dangers of which he assisted Charles the Second to escape : but on returning into Lancashire was taken prisoner ; and on the 15th of October 1651, suffered at Bolton, for his enthusiastic attachment to principles, that will ever prove equally hostile to the dignity of the Prince, and the happiness of the People.

His Lady was then in the Isle of Man : and on being informed of the decollation of her husband, she retired into Castle-Rushen,

determined to defend that fortress to the last extremity. From the execution of this heroic purpose she was however prevented by the prudence of Captain Christian, in whom she chiefly confided. Being a native of the Isle, he was attached to its welfare; and to save his countrymen from the miseries of war, capitulated to Colonels Birch and Duckenfield, who with ten armed vessels had invaded the Island; but on whose arrival, the whole country submitted to the government of the Republic. By this event the Countess of Derby was detained a prisoner till the Restoration; yet during her captivity was honoured with all the deference and respect due to her heroism and virtues. On her liberation she retired to Knowsley, where the odious neglect and ingratitude of Charles the Second embittered her life, and hastened her dissolution*.

* See Chap. IX. of the Tour.

Soon after its reduction in 1652, the Isle of Man was granted to

LORD FAIRFAX,

in a manner more honourable than any former possessor had obtained it. It was conferred upon him, not by the folly or prodigality of Princes, but by the justice of Parliament, for his gallant and generous exertions in the cause of mankind.

On the accession of Charles the Second to that throne, which his father had lost by his pusillanimity and despotism, the Isle of Man, with all its regalities and privileges, was restored to the Derby Family.

CHARLES,

the son of the Nobleman who suffered at Bolton, was the first Lord of Man after the Restoration. He died in 1672, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

WILLIAM:

on whose decease in 1702; the younger son,

JAMES,

inherited the honours and estates of the family; being the Tenth Earl of Derby, and of the Stanley line the Thirteenth Lord of Man.

Notwithstanding the late struggles of the Manks for civil liberty, the tenures of many of their lands were so intricate and precarious, as to injure the people, without increasing the revenue of the Lord. Accordingly, James, in 1703, by an Act of Tynwald, (commonly stiled the Act of Settlement) ascertained and confirmed these possessions: and by this policy, or generosity, considerably promoted the peace and prosperity of his subjects. He died in 1735, without issue; and this ample inheritance of the Isle of Man devolved on

JAMES,

the Second Duke of Athol; who was descended from Lady Amelia Sophia*, the

* She married John, Marquis of Athol, Grandfather of James.

younger daughter of the Seventh Earl of Derby.

During his possession of the Island, its real interests were either mistaken or neglected. Agricultural industry yielded to a spirit of illicit enterprize*, which, though it enriched a few individuals, impoverished the community. This commerce was in open violation of the laws of the Island; was destructive of the prosperity of the people; and injurious to the interests of the neighbouring kingdoms: however, as it considerably increased his insular Revenue, the Duke of Athol possessed not the magnanimity to attempt its abolition.

This fraudulent trade in 1726 had engaged the attention of the British Legislature; and an act was then passed, authorizing the Earl of Derby, for a pecuniary compensation, to resign his royalties.

* See Chap. XVI. of the Tour.—To render the historical account more perfect, a few repetitions have been inserted from the topographical department.

Under the government of the Duke of Athol, this clandestine commerce was prosecuted with such increasing avidity, as to demand the immediate interposition of the superior Power. Consequently, several proposals were made to him, for re-vesting the royalty of the Isle in the Crown of Britain: but, without seeming to reject these, James, by various procrastinations, politically evaded their acceptance.

He died in 1764; and his nephew and successor,

*JOHN**,

being a weak Prince, was partly intimidated, and partly allured to resign (for seventy thousand pounds †) the kingdom of his ancestors. Accordingly, on the 7th of March 1765, the regal dignity of Mona was for ever

* By his descent, he inherited the dukedom of Athol; and by his marriage with the daughter of the late Duke, he obtained the kingdom of Man. His eldest son now possesses the former honour;—the latter is for ever lost to that family.

† An annuity of 2000*l.* was afterwards obtained for the lives of himself and his Duchess.

lost in the superior effulgence of the British diadem. But though this change affected her ancient splendour and temporary interests, it soon increased and confirmed her happiness*: So that now from the bounty of Heaven, and the establishment of the British Government, the Island enjoys a plenitude of blessings.

Having thus deduced the succession of the House of Stanley to the government of Man, and given a sketch of their public transactions, so far as they were connected with my subject; I shall now conclude this Review of the Manks History with a few general Observations.

* Since 1765, the population of the Isle of Man has considerably increased: it now amounts to 30,000 inhabitants. The Island extends from north to south upwards of 30 miles; but rarely exceeds 12 miles in breadth.

*C H A P. VI.***GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE MANKS HISTORY AND
CONSTITUTION—CONCLUSION.**

THE government of the Druids and of their Descendants forms a happy and enlightened epoch in the Manks history ; but after the subversion of that system, it presents an awful picture of anarchy and devastation. To gratify the ambition of some turbulent chieftain, hecatombs of his fellow-creatures were frequently sacrificed ; and after deluging the country with blood, perhaps the conqueror was scarcely seated on the throne, when he was expelled by some warrior more barbarous than himself : while his unoffending subjects were again overwhelmed in all the horrors of war. The people being thus

generally the slaves of every new conqueror, the divine flame of liberty no longer warmed their bosoms. Oppression soon obliterated all sense of their native dignity. With their own minds they seldom conversed ; and were consequently unacquainted with the vigour of intellect, or the fire of genius. Their mind was a chaos : and like the wild beasts of the forest, they were only gratified, when their corporeal wants were supplied, or their coarse desires satiated.

Amid such barbarous anarchy few traces of legislation can be discovered in this Island. In the tenth century, a feeble dawn of constitutional light appeared. Twenty-four persons* were appointed by king Orry, under pretence of assisting his deliberations for the public weal ; but more probably to reconcile the natives to his assumption of

* Sixteen were appointed for Man, and eight for the residue of the kingdom of the Isles.

the government, by giving the sanction of popularity to his proceedings.

Under the reign of their Danish and Norwegian princes, this Island, though less subject to the devastation of foreign plunderers, was frequently lacerated by the contests of domestic oppressors. The succession of their kings, however, became more regular; the martial ardor of the people increased; and some portion of freedom and tranquillity began to be established among them. But even the scanty blessings they had now obtained, were soon destroyed by the tyranny of their Scottish conquerors; who extinguished every spark of warlike genius among the Manks, banished the few virtues they possessed, and reduced them to a race of miserable slaves.

However, a more fortunate æra at length arrived; and, with this dawn of freedom, the happiness of the people began to revive. By the English conquest their op-

pression was diminished ; and by the accession of the House of Stanley the prerogative of their kings was defined and published. The severity of the Feudal system, at this period so intolerant in the surrounding nations, was, from various causes, greatly mitigated in this kingdom. Being now subject to the government of a subordinate prince, military servitude was seldom demanded : and the rigour of civil vassalage was softened, sometimes by the generosity, but more frequently by the absence of the Feudal Lord, who usually resided in England. The rigour of their lieutenants, and the tyranny of the clergy sometimes affected the people ; yet over both they at length triumphed : obtaining for themselves and posterity an acknowledgement, and declaration of their rights and privileges.

The Constitution of the country at this period consisted of two branches : the reign-

ing Prince ; and the twenty-four Keys, who were generally deemed the representatives of the people. The Monarchs of England claimed the sovereignty of the Isle, as lords-paramount : but they did not interfere in the government of the kingdom ; which was executed in the name of the subordinate Prince, by his Lieutenant and Officers *. His power was ample. By his prerogative he coined money† ; punished, or pardoned

* The Lieutenant was the representative of Majesty. A staff, which he held upright in his hand, was the ensign of his authority ; and the oath administered to him on his appointment was, "to do justice between the Lord and his People, *as uprightly as the staff now standeth*. His principal officers were the Receiver-General ; the Comptroller, or Clerk of the Rolls ; the Water-Bailiff ; and the Attorney-General. These, with the Bishop, the Arch-deacon, and the two Vicars-general, formed the Lord's Common-Council : but his privy-counsellors were the two Deemsters, who were revered as the oracles of justice, and the Judges of the Nation. When appointed to the chair of judgement, they swore, "to do justice between man and man, as equally *as the Herring-bone lies between the two sides*." The decision by Jury, however, guarded the lives and property of individuals.

† This coinage was copper pence and halfpence, with the same impression and inscription—on one side were the crest and motto of the Derby-Family, and on the reverse, the arms of the Island, with this inscription, *Quocunque jeceris stabit*. In 1786, a new coinage of pence and halfpence, peculiar to the Island,

civil delinquents; delivered from the sentence of the spiritual court those who appealed to his clemency; summoned a Tynwald, or Convention of the people, as it suited his interest or pleasure; and with the advice of his Council and Deemsters, and the assent of the Keys, made, or repealed any law for the welfare of the kingdom. He was stiled metropolitan of the holy church; was patron of the bishoprick and vicarages; high admiral of the Island, and lord of the soil: at least his subjects generally acknowledged him as such, by paying a fine on his accession*; while, without his permission, or the approbation of his principal Officers, no person could legally

was struck at the Tower, with the impression of his Majesty's head, in lieu of the crest and motto of the House of Derby. Manks money is inferior to sterling; an English shilling being equivalent to fourteen pence of that currency.—The ensigns armorial of the Island are three legs, bended at the knees and girt in armour.

* This fine, or feudal acknowledgement, was usually accepted by the Lord, in lieu of all other services demanded by that oppressive system. Quit-rents were afterwards introduced.

mortgage or alienate his landed possessions.

This plenitude of regal and manerial power was however balanced by the other branch of the Legislature : for, without the assent of the House of Keys, no laws were valid ; and no subsidies could be raised without their approbation. The Keys *, on important occasions, formed the grand Inquest of the nation ; were present at all trials that might affect the life of a subject ; and from the decisions of the common law, the injured might appeal to their judgement.

Of the earlier part of their history little is known. They were constituted by King Orry, to assist his deliberations for the public weal : and from succeeding Princes gradually derived an increase of privileges, which were perhaps destroyed by the Scottish conquest. Under the establishment of

* According to Bishop Wilson " The twenty-four Keys are " so called from *unlocking*, as it were, the difficulties of the Law.

the House of Stanley, the Genius of Freedom began to revive. Accordingly, in 1430, a House of Keys was elected by the people: and for their legislative proceedings the members were declared independent of the crown, and only amenable to their constituents. Being delegated by the voice of the Nation, they were *then* its *real* representatives: but they soon afterwards usurped arbitrary powers. Their election was no longer dependent on the people: for, when a member died, a majority of his surviving brethren chose two persons; and from these the Governor selected one, who immediately took possession of the vacant seat. Thus constituted, his legislative existence (if it suited his pleasure, and he remained unimpeached *) was coeval with his natural; while all his deliberations were industriously concealed

* When a member is found guilty of any public crime, he is ejected from the House by the voice of his Brethren.

from the Nation. Since 1765, the establishment of the British Government has in some degree, meliorated the spirit of the Manks laws*: the form of the constitution, however, remains unaffected. Consequently, from the middle of the fifteenth,

* I shall here mention a few of the Manks Laws, which, from their singularity, merit attention.

“ An Alien, forfeiting life and limb, before verdict given, the Lord need not receive him to grace, unless he pleases: but if a Native, who has made fealty, put himself in grace, he ought, by law, to have his life on forfeiting his goods, and submitting himself to one of these three punishments. The first, to remain in prison for a year and a day; drink of the water next the prison door, and eat the bread of the prison, being a mixture of meal, chaff, and ashes. His second choice shall be to forswear the King and all his lands: and the third,” (which in severity seems to bear no proportion) “ was to pay the King 3l.” From this we may conjecture, that a considerable part of the Lord’s revenue arose from the commutation of punishments, and the forfeiture of effects.

“ If any man hath done treason, and taken sanctuary; it shall not avail him: and if any man-slayer taketh sanctuary, yet refuseth to confess the crime, the coroner shall take him out of the sanctuary. The Laity shall forfeit life and effects for receiving, or relieving an out-law: and any Bishop guilty of the same crime, shall be deprived of his temporalities.”

“ We also give for law, that our Lord and his household be victualled on the following terms: A bullock, 3s. 4d. a mutton, 6d, a lamb, 1d. a pig, 1d. a kid, one farthing; and a goose, one halfpenny.”

to the close of the eighteenth century, the House of Keys has been a combined *Autocracy*, usurping a legislative existence, independent of the will of the People.

However, as their interests were inseparably connected with the welfare of the com-

“ If a man be guilty of felony, his wife’s share of the goods to
 “ be exempt from forfeiture : If a woman be guilty, she may be
 “ forsaken by her husband ; but if he conceal her crime, the
 “ law shall deem him equally criminal. A widow shall have one
 “ half of her husband’s estate, if she be his first wife ; and if his
 “ second, or third, only one quarter : but, if she marry, or
 “ miscarry, she shall lose her widow-right.”

“ During the lifetime of her husband, a wife shall have the
 “ power to bequeath by will, independent of his pleasure, one
 “ half of all the effects moveable and immoveable.”

“ If there be no son, the eldest daughter shall inherit.”

“ No criminal shall be executed in Passion week.”

“ If a woman bring forth a dead child, the child shall not be
 “ buried in the church-yard, except the mother swear that she
 “ has received the Sacrament since the quickening of the child.”

“ If a man ravish a *wife*, he must die : but if he violate the
 “ chastity of a *maid*, the Deemsters shall deliver to her a rope,
 “ a sword, and a ring ; and she is then to have her choice, to
 “ hang, behead, or marry him.”

The generosity of the following law I admire.

“ If a man get a young woman or maid with child, and, within
 “ two years after the birth of the child, marry her ; that child,
 “ though born before marriage, shall possess his father’s estate,
 “ according to the custom of the Island, as amply, as if that
 “ child had been born in wedlock.”

munity, their exertions have contributed to limit the prerogative of their Lords, mitigate the severity of their Governors, and diminish the tyranny of their Clergy. Even the present members have been ambitious of emulating the spirit of their Predecessors. When the Duke of Athol *flattered himself, that the British Legislature would support his attempts, to subject the Island again to the rod of Feudal power, the House of Keys strenuously opposed his parliamentary applications. Though their pride and interest engaged them in the combat ;

“ The Manks still retain an usage (observed by the Saxons before the conquest) that the Bishop, or some priest appointed by him, do always sit in their Great Court along with the Governor, till sentence of death (if any) be to be pronounced. The Deemster asking the Jury (instead of guilty, or not guilty) *Vod Fir-charree soie* ? which literally translated is, *May the man of the Chancel, or he that ministers at the altar, continue to sit ?* If the Foreman answers in the negative, the Bishop, or his substitute, withdraws ; and sentence is then pronounced on the criminal.”—This last article is copied from Bishop Wilson.

* The manerial rights of the Athol-family were not affected by the revestment of the royalty of the Isle : but the present Duke pretending that several of these had been either lost, or assumed

their success has proved beneficial to the country: for, by repeatedly subjecting their Antagonist to the mortification of a defeat, in the presence of the British Nation, the animosities of both parties have acquired fresh vigour; and so long as these exist, mutual jealousies will secure the rights of the people from any new invasion. The duke of Athol, by his interest with the present Administration, will seek every opportunity to diminish the triumph of the Keys; while they, to preserve their conquest, will assiduously endeavour to frustrate his power and intrigues. But should ever a *Coalition* * be

by the Crown of Britain, petitioned Parliament for their restoration. The House of Keys opposed his Grace's attempts; as from the language of his first Bill, and the mystery of his subsequent proceedings, they imagined that, under pretence of recovering rights which had never been alienated from him, his real intentions were, to re-establish, in this country, a portion of that oppressive system to which it had formerly been subject.

* This hint may not be unnecessary. Since the Review of the Manks History was written, the Duke of Athol, has been appointed Governor of the Island; and a Majority of the House of Keys has already congratulated his Grace on the avidity and success with which he *solicited* an office, that his Ancestors were accustomed to *confer* on their dependants.

effected, however the People may, for a moment, be deluded with the prospect of imaginary blessings, their necks will soon be trampled upon, and their interests sacrificed to the ambition and avarice of Individuals.

THE END.

